

Home and Community Care (HACC) Program

Loddon Mallee 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 Loddon Mallee 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

Individual HACC Planning sessions were held between February and May 2007 in the LGAs where growth would be concentrated utilising existing Aged and Disability Networks. Advance notice and a focused agenda stimulated discussion enabling the broadest identification of opportunities and strengths in each LGA because of the diversity of stakeholders that were engaged. Following the completion of a draft plan, all HACC organisations in the Region received a copy of the plan via email for comment.

Individual planning session	Date	Total number of attendees	Number of service providers	Commonwealth representative in attendance
Greater Bendigo (c)	15 Feb 2007	13	8	
Mount Alexander (S)	20 Feb 2007	7	6	
Macedon Ranges (S)	15 Mar 2007	4	4	
Mildura Rural City	22 Mar 2007	16	13	
Central Goldfields	23 Mar 2007	7	3	
Aboriginal HACC service providers	26 April 2007	10	5	
Mildura Rural City	8 May 2007	7	6	

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

* excludes State contribution to price

5. 2006-09 Proposed Distribution

5.1 Indicative regional distribution of growth by LGA

Service Region	LGA Name	Matched growth
Loddon Mallee	Buloke (S)	\$0
	Campaspe (S)	\$0
	Central Goldfields (S)	\$52,570
	Gannawarra (S)	\$0
	Greater Bendigo (C)	\$289,836
	Loddon (S)	\$0
	Macedon Ranges (S)	\$108,461
	Mildura (RC)	\$199,072
	Mount Alexander (S)	\$64,120
	Swan Hill (RC)	\$6,170
	Loddon Mallee Region	\$20,000
Loddon Total		* \$740,229

* excludes State contribution to price

5.2 Comparison to Proposals in 2006-09 Triennial Plan

In 2006-09 the Loddon Mallee Region proposed the following distribution of growth funding:

LGA Name	Proportion of funds to Priority 1	Proportion of funds to Priority 2	Proportion of funds to Priority 3	Total % Growth to LGA
Buloke (S)				0.00%
Campaspe (S)			1.00%	1.00%
Central Goldfields (S)	7.00%			7.00%
Gannawarra (S)				0.00%
Greater Bendigo (C)	40.00%		2.00%	42.00%
Loddon (S)	0.00%			0.00%
Macedon Ranges (S)	14.00%			14.00%
Mildura (RC)	23.00%	1.00%	1.00%	25.00%
Mount Alexander (S)	8.00%			8.00%
Swan Hill (RC)			1.00%	1.00%
Loddon Mallee Region	2.00%			2.00%
	94.00%	1.00%	5.00%	100.00%

In 2007-08, the Region allocated the following distribution by LGA and priority.

LGA	% of funds to Priority 1	% of funds to Priority 2	% of funds to Priority 3	Total growth % by LGA
Central Goldfields (S)	7.07%			7.07%
Greater Bendigo (C)	38.78%	0.18%		38.96%
Macedon Ranges (S)	14.20%	0.18%	0.21%	14.59%
Mildura (RC)	24.00%	0.85%	2.38%	27.23%
Mount Alexander (S)	8.42%		0.21%	8.63%
Swan Hill (RC)			0.83%	0.83%
Loddon Mallee Region	2.69%			2.69%
TOTAL	95.16%	1.21%	3.63%	100.00%

5.3 2007-08 Regional Allocations

Summary of Allocation by Priority

LGA	Priority 1 \$	Priority 2 \$	Priority 3 \$	Total \$ by LGA
Central Goldfields (S)	\$52,706			\$52,706
Greater Bendigo (C)	\$288,921	\$1,333		\$290,255
Macedon Ranges (S)	\$105,780	\$1,334	\$1,535	\$108,650
Mildura (RC)	\$178,831	\$6,330	\$17,822	\$202,984
Mount Alexander (S)	\$62,735		\$1,546	\$64,281
Swan Hill (RC)	\$0		\$6,170	\$6,170
Loddon Mallee Region	\$20,037			\$20,037
TOTAL *	\$709,011	\$8,998	\$27,074	\$745,083

* includes State contribution to price

Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar

Priority 1

The Region has allocated \$709,011 (95%) of growth funding in 2007-08 to Priority One to address the inequity identified in the LGAs of Central Goldfields Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Macedon Ranges Shire and Mildura Rural City. These LGAs were funded below the Regional average per capita.

Priority 2

Funding of \$8,998 (1%) was allocated to support the extension of the CALD Equity and Access program into additional LGAs in the Loddon Mallee Region.

The allocation in Mildura Rural City will fund increased support for CALD clients to improve access and information to HACC and Aged Care services.

Priority 3

Funding of \$27,074 (4%) was directed to this priority whilst the Region awaits the outcome of the recent funding of Strengthening HACC in Aboriginal Communities. Priority has been given to addressing equity considerations.

Regional Summary of allocations

Activity	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Assessment		\$137,312				
Allied Health	3471	\$273,098				
Domestic Assistance	2188	\$58,638			317	\$8,496
Personal Care	2482	\$76,024				
Flexible Service Response						\$15,497
Nursing	1100	\$79,200				
Planned Activity Group Core					283	\$3,082
Planned Activity Group High	1871	\$28,701				
Service System Resourcing		\$56,037		\$8,998		
TOTAL *		\$709,011		\$8,998		\$27,074

* includes State contribution to price

Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar

Analysis of the per capita service funding across the Loddon Mallee revealed the following:

- Five LGAs were funded below the Regional average per capita, these being, Central Goldfield Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges Shire, Mildura Rural City and Mount Alexander Shire.
- Central Goldfields LGA was funded below the Rural Regional average for Allied Health and although funded over the average in Personal Care, organisations within the LGA were working in partnership to implement a 'basic footcare' model to alleviate the pressures of insufficient Podiatry service. The Council's MDS data supports growth funding as currently their actuals exceed their targets.
- Greater Bendigo was funded below the Rural Regional average for Assessment, Allied Health, Domestic Assistance, Planned Activity Group core and high. Although Personal Care funding was comparable, the MDS data demonstrates that actuals exceed targets. Service System Resourcing (SSR) funding will build on a part time position funded in 2006-07 to assist with the significant issues with weekend workloads, including medication management. In addition, 30% of the clients have dementia and need monitoring seven days a week thus increasing the need for HACC services on weekends. SSR funding to Priority 2 was to further develop social support to the CALD community with the provision of information/luncheons on a quarterly basis.
- Macedon Ranges LGA was funded below the Rural Regional average for Assessment, Allied Health and significantly under for Planned Activity Group core and high. SSR funding to Priority 2 was to further develop social support to the CALD community with the provision of information/luncheons on a quarterly basis. Priority 3 will provide quarterly Elders luncheons and social support for the Aboriginal community.
- Mildura Rural City LGA was funded below the Rural Regional average for Assessment and Allied Health. Whilst funding was comparable for Domestic Assistance and HACC Nursing, current MDS data demonstrated that service exceeds the funding. SSR funding to Priority 2 was to further develop social support to the CALD community with the provision of information/luncheons on a quarterly basis and the provision of an activities to increase awareness of Aged and HACC services.

- Mount Alexander LGA was significantly funded below the Rural Regional average for Allied Health and Personal Care. The hospital and council were working together to develop a 'basic footcare' model to alleviate workload pressure on the Allied Health provider. Whilst Planned Activity Group core funding was comparable the additional funding through Priority 3 will provide quarterly Elders luncheons and social support for the Aboriginal community. SSR funding to Priority 2 was to further develop social support to the CALD community with the provision of information/luncheons on a quarterly basis.
- Swan Hill Rural City LGA was funded above the Rural Region's \$pcf, an Aboriginal organisation within the area was funded to support equity considerations when compared with other areas.
- Additional funding was allocated through SSR to increase the hours of the Regional HACC Training Coordinator to 0.8EFT and to increase the funding for training provision.

Allocation of Growth funds by Priority by LGA

*includes Sate contribution to price

Central Goldfields Shire

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Allied Health	520	\$40,913.60				
Personal Care	385	\$11,792.55				

City of Greater Bendigo

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Assessment		\$100,899.35				
Allied Health	390	\$30,685.20				
Domestic Assistance	1600	\$42,880.00				
Personal Care	1680	\$51,458.40				
Planned Activity Group High	1760	\$26,998.40				
Service System Resourcing		\$36,000.00		\$1,333.25		

Macedon Ranges Shire

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Assessment		\$36,412.88				
Allied Health	860	\$67,664.80				
Planned Activity Group Core					141	\$1,535.49
Planned Activity Group High	111	\$1,702.74				
Service System Resourcing				\$1,334.07		

Mildura Rural City Council

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Flexible Service Response						\$9,326.80
Allied Health	1066	\$83,872.88				
Domestic Assistance	588	\$15,758.40			317	\$8,495.60
Nursing	1100	\$79,200.00				
Service System Resourcing				\$6,330.49		

Mount Alexander Shire

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Allied Health	635	\$49,961.80				
Personal Care	417	\$12,772.71				
Planned Activity Group Core					142	\$1,546.38

Swan Hill Rural City

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Flexible Service Response						\$6,170.00

Loddon Mallee Region

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3	
Activity	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$	Growth Units	Growth \$
Service System Resourcing		\$20,037.00				

6. Research and Development

In 2006-09, the region proposed to fund a project focussing on the Active HACC model of service provision through the 2007-08 service development grant. Due to statewide developments in this area, the 2007-08 service development grant is to fund a project in the Mildura LGA that will trial five innovative methods of volunteer recruitment relevant to a rural community, to support HACC funded services in the LGA.

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 – “topsliced” - 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.