

Guide to access to Victorian public health services by people living in community detention

health

As at September 2011

Background

Expanded community detention (also called residence determination) arrangements for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable families were announced by the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Citizenship in October 2010. As a result, significant numbers of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable family groups are to be relocated from immigration detention facilities to community-based accommodation.

Definition of community detention

Community detention (residence determination) was introduced in June 2005 and is a form of immigration detention that enables people to reside in the community without needing to be escorted. Community detention does not give a person any lawful status in Australia, nor does it give them the rights and entitlements of a person living in the community on a visa (for example, the right to study or work).

Community detention clients are informed of the conditions of their community detention arrangements upon entry into the program. Conditions include a mandatory requirement to report regularly to the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and/or their service provider, and reside at the address specified by the minister.

Access to healthcare

Under current arrangements with the Commonwealth, Victorian public hospitals provide some health services to people in immigration detention under a **full cost recovery model** (including hospital care and ambulance transport). **The Victorian Department of Health is currently in discussions with the Commonwealth to expand this arrangement to include people living in community detention.**

International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) has been contracted by DIAC to arrange and provide health services to people in immigration detention, including community detention. As such, IHMS has established a network of health service providers across the state to provide necessary health services. People living in community detention have access to this network of health service providers through IHMS. If a community detention client presents to any Victorian public health service to access the services listed below, DIAC will reimburse the Victorian state funded service provider on a fee-for-service basis.

Queries regarding health services provided to people in community detention, or details on the network of health service providers should be directed to IHMS on 02 9372 2500 or emailed to ihmsgan@ihms.com.au

Health and related services may include:

- Admitted and non-admitted patients
- Ambulance
- Primary and community health
- Immunisation services
- Preventive health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Dental*
- Pharmaceuticals
- Mental health
- Aged support services
- Interpreting services
- Aids and equipment*

* requires separate approval by IHMS & DIAC through the client case manager

Identity

As community detention clients are not accompanied by an immigration officer and do not have an entitlement to Medicare (Medicare ineligible) or Centrelink, verification of the person's status could occur through the IHMS card (as shown) or through other documentation from DIAC (see the 'Community detention: letter of introduction' at [Attachment 1](#)). However, people living in community detention may not always have an IHMS card that verifies their status.



Red Cross case management

The Australian Red Cross is the lead agency implementing DIAC's Community Detention Program and works closely with partner agencies. Further information on the Red Cross Case Management should be directed to the client's Red Cross caseworker. If the caseworker is unknown, contact Red Cross Migration Support Program for assistance on 03 8327 7883 or

www.redcross.org.au/ourservices_aroundtheworld_tracingrefugeeservices_commdeten.htm

Billing arrangements

DIAC will reimburse the cost for services provided to people living in community detention on a fee-for-service basis. A formal cost recovery mechanism is currently being negotiated between DIAC and the Victorian Department of Health. Please note that community detention clients are Medicare ineligible and thus the billing process should apply to all aspects of the health service provided.

Hospitals: Note that billing arrangements under the current Immigration Detention MoU are sufficient to claim reimbursement and should continue.

Invoices must be in the form of a valid tax invoice and include the following information:

- The Patient ID number as listed on the IHMS Patient ID Card (shown above);
- date of invoice;
- reference to the revised MoU for the provision of health services for people in immigration detention under negotiation between DIAC and Victoria;
- details of the health services provider;

- description of the services provided (eg. one hour physiotherapy session, counselling session, etc);
- name and date of birth of the community detention client;
- the timeframe in which the services were provided;
- itemised expenditure for the services provided;
- if reimbursement for a direct expense is required (for example accommodation or interpreting services), a copy of the tax invoice paid by the Victorian state funded service provider; and
- account details for payment by electronic funds transfer (EFT) including:
 - invoice date;
 - account name;
 - bank details;
 - ABN;
 - BSB number;
 - account number; and
 - GST amount.

Invoices should be submitted to IHMS on the last business day of each month at the following address:

IHMS
Regional Health Service Manager
PO Box 8077
Footscray, Vic 3012

Additional information

Information about the Community Detention Program can be accessed on DIAC's website:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention/services/community-detention.htm>

Note about community-based asylum seekers who are NOT in the Community Detention Program

Note that asylum seekers who are living in the community and who are NOT community detention clients are a **different group**. These arrangements do not apply to asylum seekers. For information about community-based asylum seekers and their eligibility for Victorian health services, see the *Guide to asylum seeker access to health and community services in Victoria* produced by the Victorian Department of Health.

ATTACHMENT 1



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Community detention: letter of introduction

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to advise that the following client:

CM: please affix client photo here with a "wet stamp" from DIAC

Mr/Mrs/Ms ### family name

DOB

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has been approved by the Minister of Immigration and Citizenship to reside in community detention (also known as Residence Determination) at the following address:

Street number and name, Suburb name, State and Postcode

The *Migration Act 1958* enables our client to reside only at the above-mentioned address and to move about in the community without being accompanied or restrained by a Departmental officer.

This approval to live in the community under Residence Determination is not a visa grant.

Please note that this letter:

- is only endorsed by the Department if the affixed photo is stamped with a DIAC stamp
- is provided to advise that the client is known to the Department by this name and Date of Birth as at the date of issue of this letter
- it is not an identification document as the Department does not issue such documents.

Should you have any queries in relation to this document, then please contact:

[Insert DIAC case manager contact details as per following format:

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

City name

Street Address, postcode etc

Contact officer: name of case manager

Telephone: #####

Yours faithfully

[Senior case manager of relevant DIAC state office]

/ / 2011