

# Fact Sheet

## Young People in Residential Aged Care Program

### About the Program

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced the Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program in February 2006.

The Program is managed by Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services, and jointly funded by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.

The Program recognises that residential aged care is not the most appropriate accommodation for younger people with a disability.

Younger people with a disability either living in residential aged care or at risk of entering residential aged care are eligible for the Program, and participation is entirely voluntary. Nationally, the Program gives priority to people under the age of 50.

There are three main objectives of the Program:

1. To improve the delivery of disability services to younger people with a disability who chose to remain in residential aged care or for whom residential aged care remains the only available suitable option.
2. To divert young people with a disability who are at risk of entering residential aged care to more appropriate accommodation
3. To assist young people with a disability living in residential aged care to move to more appropriate accommodation where available

### Current Program Priorities

#### Enhancement Packages

All people aged under 50 living in aged care facilities in Tasmania have been offered a comprehensive assessment of their support needs and their wishes for the future. A detailed Plan has then been completed, including input from the person, their family, their advocate and the staff involved in their care. This Plan details the support that person would require if they were to move to alternative accommodation, as well as any ongoing age-appropriate needs that are not met within the aged care setting.

From this Plan an Enhancement Package has been developed for each person. These packages are available to people who are still living in an aged care facility. Some examples of services provided in an Enhancement

Package are:

- support to access the community
- recreation and leisure programs for younger people
- health professional assessments and therapy
- rehabilitation, massage and touch therapy
- assistance with transport to access the community, family, day support or to attend volunteer work placements
- access to structured specialist disability support day services.
- specialised equipment including electric and manual wheelchairs and specialised seating.

The Program does not fund additional nursing services to people to reside in a residential aged care facility.

### Diversion Packages

Diversion Packages provide a range of individualised support for young people aged under 50 who are at risk of entering an aged care facility. This support aims to prevent the person from permanently entering an aged care facility. Support may include in-home support, personal care, day programs, case management, equipment and community access.

Eligible clients will be considered for a package of support following an assessment by the YPIRAC Program. These packages will be allocated as funding becomes available within the YPIRAC Program.

It should be understood that the YPIRAC Program will not be able to meet the needs of all young people with a disability who are at risk of entering residential aged care - some of these people may still need to enter aged care.

### Accommodation

A number of the young people currently living in residential aged care have expressed a desire to move.

Under the Program, capital funding is available to establish an accommodation service for people who have high and complex care and support needs.

The design of this new accommodation service was informed by data collected from current residents who are under 50 years of age, along with input from other relevant stakeholders.

Construction of this new accommodation service in Chigwell has commenced and the new service will be operational during 2009 – 10. A service provider to manage this service will be selected through an Application for Grant Funding process.

### **Further information**

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*The Information provided in this Fact Sheet is correct at September 2009.*