

Financial Planning Weekly

Aged Care

Family gatherings are sometimes few and far between. At your last gathering you may have noticed that Mum/Dad or both are starting to need some, or a lot, of care.

This may prompt you to start to have quiet conversations about “what are we going to do to help Mum/Dad?”. Aged care can be confusing, especially as it tends to be thrust onto families quickly, so in the next few weeklies, we’ll discuss a basic overview of what to expect when it comes to deciding and looking for care.

Starting the Conversation

Conversations about care can be difficult, especially when you are initiating it with your loved ones. Good communication is key, and structuring a ‘with you’ conversation, rather than ‘at you’, can make things a lot easier.

Here are some things to keep in mind to get the conversation off on the right foot.

- Ask questions to gain an understanding of their thoughts and feelings about care.
- Look at it from their perspective. Put yourself in their shoes.
- Acknowledge their concerns, let them know you understand.
- Maintain a back-and-forth discussion rather than talking at them. This way, they can discover their own ideas and preferences.
- Be open and prepared to compromise.
- Offer suggestions instead of making decisions.

If your loved ones feel uncomfortable having this conversation with you, they may feel more comfortable talking with a doctor, health professional or someone with experience. It’s always good to get a second opinion.

Getting care needs assessed – Government Funded Support

[MyAgedCare](#) is the starting point for accessing Australian Government-funded aged care services.

To qualify for an assessment, needs and age requirements need to be met, such as:

- How much assistance you need with some everyday tasks.
- Aged 65 years or older (50 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islanders).

The assessment can be completed either by phone: My Aged Care on [1800 200 422](tel:1800200422) or complete their [online assessment](#).

There are two types of assessments that work out the care needs, and what types of care you may be eligible for.

1. Regional Assessment Service (RAS) – Home Support Assessment

Depending on the information provided online or over the phone, if it sounds like low-level support to stay independent in your home is required, a home support assessment may be

recommended with a RAS assessor. This type of support is provided through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

2. Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) – Comprehensive Assessment

Alternatively, if the information provided sounds like the care needs are greater than what the Commonwealth Home Support Programme can offer, a comprehensive assessment with an ACAT assessor maybe recommended. ACAT will assess for Home Care Packaged, Short-term care options and Aged care homes.

The final stages will involve the assessor (a health care professional) coming to your home and discussing how well day-to-day tasks are being managed, talk about what support may be needed to help return to independence and understand the situation. They will also develop a support plan on strengths, difficulties, goals, what you would like to achieve and any service preferences.

After the Assessment

Once the assessment is completed, you will either receive a support plan on the spot, via post/email or through your My Aged Care Online Account within two to six weeks, along with Assessment letter (if applicable).

These will confirm if approval has been granted for any eligible Australian Government subsidised aged care services. The letter will outline what type of services are eligible and approved to receive, as well as reasons why. You will also receive information you need to access these services.

If the assessment finds you aren't eligible for any government-funded service, your support plan may suggest other care options. There are non-government-funded service providers that you can offer similar services [here](#). These services are not subsidies or regulated by the Australian Government. You will have to pay the full cost to access these particular services.

Alex, Anu and the team.

This report has been prepared by Alex Henderson & Anu Souvannavong
Shaw and Partners, Morrissey Wealth Management
Level 36, 120 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



Morrissey Wealth Management (Authorised Representative Number 268130) is a Corporate Authorised Representative of Shaw and Partners Limited (AFSL 236048) (ABN 24 003 221 583)

This market update is issued by Morrissey Wealth Management an authorised representative (no. 268130) (the "Morrissey Group") of Shaw and Partners Limited AFSL 236048. This market update is confidential and may be privileged. Unauthorised use, copying or distribution of any part of this document including attachments is prohibited. The views expressed are personal to the Morrissey Group and do not necessarily reflect the views of Shaw and Partners. This market update has been prepared without taking into consideration any investor's financial situations, objectives or needs. Accordingly, before acting on the advice in this document, if any, you should consider its appropriateness to your financial situation, objectives and needs. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the information provided in this document is correct, but we cannot make any representation nor warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or currency of that information. To the extent permissible by law, no responsibility for any errors or misstatements is taken, negligent or otherwise. Shaw or its authorised representatives may also receive fees or

brokerage from dealing in financial products, see Shaw's Financial Services Guide for information about the services offered by Shaw available at <http://www.shawandpartners.com.au/>.