

HomeFirst Program

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Program

Program code	Not applicable (RDNS clients will be admitted as HACC clients).
Definition	<p>The HomeFirst program is a Department of Human Services (DHS) program that provides home and community-based support services to enable individuals with a disability to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live as independently as possible and not require staffed residential accommodation • remain living in their own homes • increase or maintain maximum independence • move to more independent living arrangements • access community activities and facilities <p>RDNS may be requested to provide additional HACC services to compliment the care provided under the HomeFirst program.</p>
Responsibility	RDNS
Referrals	<p><i>To</i> All RDNS centres.</p> <p><i>From</i> The client's Regional Department of Human Services office via the Disability Intake and Response worker.</p>
Type of service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support coordination • Personal care • Community access – assistance to access community recreation, leisure and cultural activities and services • Other supports – for example home care, decision making and provision of goods and equipment <p>Support is provided in or from the person's home (family home, bungalow, caravan, rental accommodation or public housing).</p> <p>Up to 34 hours of support per week may be provided. Support or services may also be provided to homeless people or those who lack stable accommodation.</p>

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Eligibility/criteria for accepting referral

Clients may be eligible if they:

- are aged between 6 and 64 years old, and
- have an acquired brain injury, a physical, sensory or intellectual disability, and need support to maintain or increase their independence, and
- are living in their own home or with family (it could be owned, rented or shared housing), or
- are moving from staffed or supported housing into their own home.

In order to be considered for access to the HomeFirst program, clients need to be eligible under the Intellectually Disabled Persons' Services (IDPS) Act 1986 or the Disability Services Act 1991 for services funded by Disability Services.

Priority access is given to eligible clients who:

- are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- experience social isolation
- have a primary carer experiencing difficulty providing support at the level required to maintain their current living arrangements
- are able to move towards more independent living arrangements

Individuals with a disability are assessed and prioritised by the program according to need (note that eligibility does not mean that support is provided).

The HomeFirst program will not meet all of the individual's support needs in many instances, but will form part of the individual's whole support package (which may include HACC services and case management).

Overseas visitors Determined by the program.

Health insurance

Not applicable.

Fees

No charge to clients – funded by DHS Disability Services.

If the client is receiving HACC services from RDNS, the HACC fee schedule will apply.

Liaison charge

Not applicable.

Consumables

Specialised aids and equipment may be provided.

Continuity of care/Core

The HACC program has no 'maintenance of effort' obligation to clients on the HomeFirst program.

Access responsiveness

RDNS policy reference

continued

Contract/agreement Nil

Contract responsibility

Contact responsibility

Expiry date

Other programs permitted HACC

Linkages

Comments

Reference/source of information

[http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilityimages.nsf/Downloads/home1st/\\$File/home1st.doc](http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilityimages.nsf/Downloads/home1st/$File/home1st.doc)

Department of Human Services, 2003. HomeFirst Guidelines.

Reviewer: HACC Non-HACC Committee	Last review date: March 2004
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