



Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) overview

Aged Care Assessments Reform Branch



A new tool for assessment

- An Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) to assess for all aged care services

Process to develop the prototype IAT

- Health Consult started with NSAF
- Consideration of assessment instruments
- Assessment working group
- Data collection study (over 2000 people)
- Initial prototype refined after data study
- Prototype refined further after Living Lab trial.



Developing the IAT

- New assessment tool for assessing the eligibility of older people in Australia for Commonwealth-subsidised aged care services and aged care programs.
- Developed in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Safety and Quality of Aged Care (Recommendation 28) as part of the single assessment reforms.
- IAT prototype was based on the National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF), developed by Health Consult in 2021. An expert clinical panel provided guidance on inclusion of questions and validated tools. Prototype was trialled with 2,000 real life clients in 2021 and with assessors in a Living Lab completed in July 2022.
- From 17 April 2023 to 28 July 2023 a live trial of the IAT with assessors commenced, with 8 Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT) and 14 Regional Assessment Services (RAS) organisations participating.
- Target was to complete 20% of assessments (around 20,000)
- 22,002 assessments were completed in the live trial using the IAT.
- IAT is expected to be introduced with commencement of the single assessment system. The tool will be further refined with the implementation of the Support at Home program from July 2025.



What does the tool look like?

13 sections in the IAT

1 Assessment details

2 Reason for assessment

3 Carer profile

4 Medical and Medications

5 Function

6 Behaviour

7 Physical, Personal health and Frailty

8 Social

9 Cognition

10 Psychological

11 Home and personal safety

12 Financial or Legal

13 Support consideration

Support Plan

14 Current access to services

15 Goal setting

16 Assessor recommendations



What is information is collected?

Questions

- **Carer Profile** – people living in house, nature and amount of help provided, factors affecting availability and sustainability of care relationship, respite care.
- **Medical and Medications** – name of medical conditions and medications
- **Behaviour** – changes in personality, behaviour – e.g aggressive, resistive, agitation
- **Social** – spending time with family and friends, attending clubs, religious meetings and other groups
- **Cognition** – ability to remember date, name and address, recalling conversations, finding the right
- **Psychological** – anxiety, disinterest, depression, loneliness, social isolation.
- **Home and personal safety** – trouble navigating home/garden (e.g toilet, shower, stairs, slip hazards), existing help with home maintenance.
- **Financial or legal** – is person capable of making own decisions, power of attorney, support with financial decisions, Mental Health Act order.
- **Support considerations** – CALD, Indigenous, LGBTI, care leaver, veteran, risk of homelessness, risk of elder abuse, signs of self-neglect.

For example, section 5 - Function includes

Questions

5 Function

- Getting to places out of walking distance
- Undertaking housework
- Going shopping
- Preparing meals
- Taking medicine
- Handle money
- Using the telephone
- Using online services
- Walking
- Climbing stairs
- Taking bath or shower
- Dressing
- Eating
- Transfers
- Toileting
- DEMMI Mobility – movement on bed, chair, balance, walking.

Another example: section 7 - Physical, Personal Health and Frailty

Questions

7 Physical, Personal Health and Frailty

- Does the client have any vision, hearing, speech or some other related concerns or difficulties?
- Any oral health concerns? (e.g. problems with teeth, mouth and/or dentures)
- Do you have any problems with swallowing causing difficulties when you eat or drink?
- Any foot problems that affect your ability to walk or move about?
- Any major skin conditions?
- During the past month, has it often been too painful to do many of your day-to-day activities?
- Do you smoke or have you smoked in the past?

Section 7 - Physical, Personal Health and Frailty, continued

Questions

7 Physical, Personal Health and Frailty

- Recent falls
- Unintentional weight loss
- Difficulty walking around the block or 300m
- Illness (e.g. diabetes, cancer, arthritis, chronic lung disease etc.)
- Other – communication difficulties, driving, oral health (incl swallowing), mini-nutritional assessment, skin conditions, pain

What about section 15 - Goal setting questions?

Questions

15 Goal setting

- What are your goals?
- Areas of concern?
- What activities where support is needed to achieve the goal?
- How important is it to achieve the goal?

Some Live Trial Assessment results

Across 22,002 assessments...

60% were female

Median age was 80, with most participants aged between 74 and 85 years old.

1 in 2 (53%) do not have a carer

1 in 2 (49%) have had a fall in the past 12 months

2 in 5 (39%) live alone

6% feel lonely or isolated all the time

1 in 3 (34%) have a home and/or garden that is unsafe

1 in 3 (35%) were admitted to hospital in the past 12 months

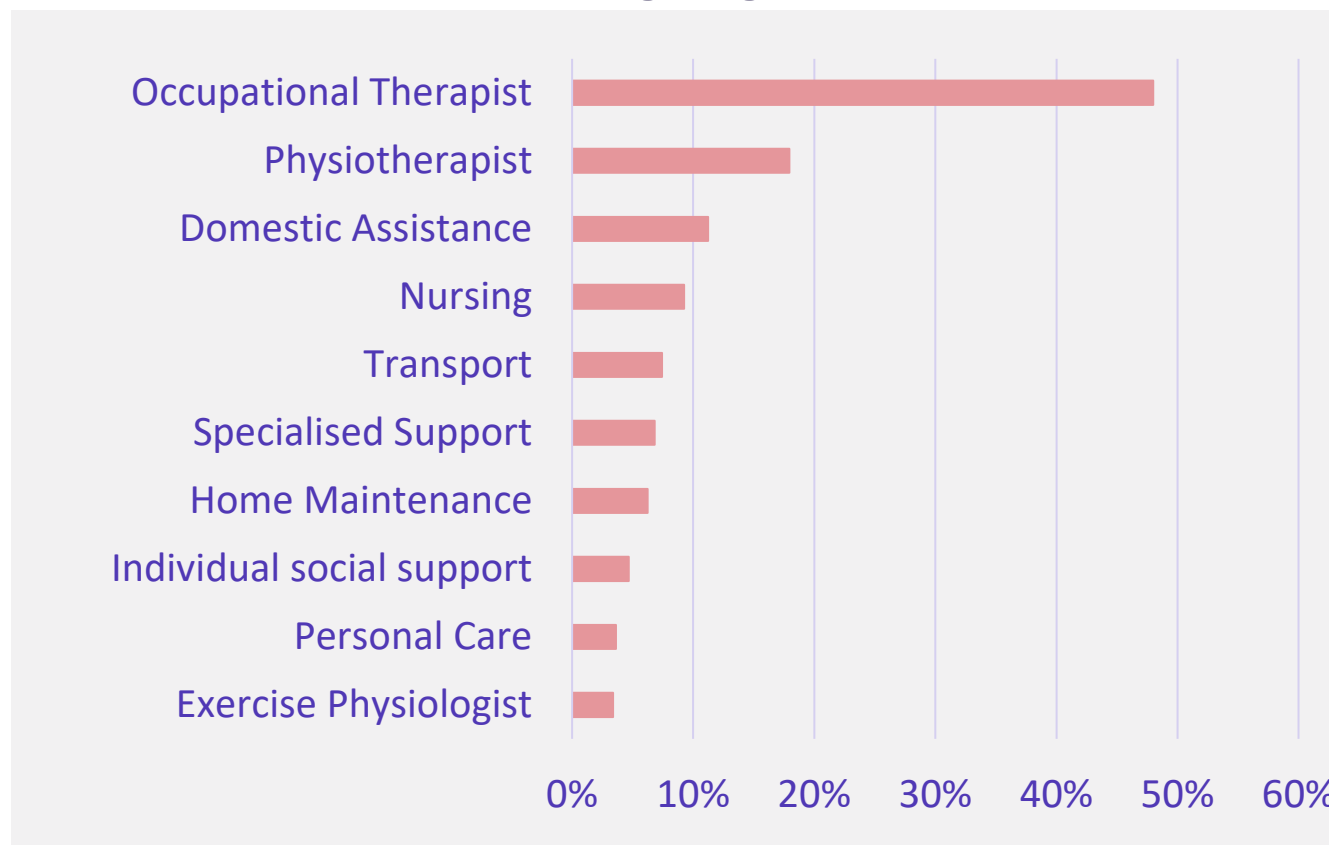


Live Trial Assessment trial results

14%

of clients
required non-
ongoing
services only

Breakdown of 14% non-ongoing services per service



Learn more about the single assessment system for aged care:

www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care/aged-care-reforms-and-reviews/single-assessment-system-for-aged-care