



# General Practice in Aged Care Incentive facts and benefits

Effective – August 2024

## What is the General Practice in Aged Care Incentive?

The General Practice in Aged Care Incentive supports general practitioners (GPs) and practices with an incentive payment to deliver more proactive, planned and coordinated care for people living in residential aged care homes.

More information about the incentive, including eligibility and service requirements, is available at: [health.gov.au/our-work/gpaci](https://health.gov.au/our-work/gpaci).

## How do aged care residents benefit from the General Practice in Aged Care Incentive?

By registering for MyMedicare, aged care residents may benefit from the incentive with:

- access to primary care services delivered in aged care homes
- regular care planning services, including health assessments and development of care plans
- regular primary care services delivered in aged care homes to respond to changing health needs
- formal, established relationships between themselves as a patient, and their GP, practice, and other healthcare professionals
- increased continuity of care.

## Why is the General Practice in Aged Care Incentive important?

The incentive is an important part of the [Australian Government's response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#) (Royal Commission). The Royal Commission recommended a new primary care model to improve access to care for aged care residents.

The incentive is designed to meet the needs of aged care residents. Aged care residents are usually older than 85 years. They often have complex physical and cognitive health conditions, and experience reduced access to primary care and other health services. However, there are no age restrictions on the incentive – young people living in residential aged care can also receive services that are eligible for the incentive.



Better health outcomes are expected when a person receives proactive, planned, and continuous care from a GP and care team. The General Practice in Aged Care Incentive will allow this by providing more funding, over and above eligible Medicare Benefits Schedule payments, to participating GPs and practices.

The incentive is also part of the government's commitment to [Strengthening Medicare](#). The government's vision to strengthen Medicare includes giving consumers a voice in the design of services to ensure they meet people's needs.

## **How will GPs and practices benefit from the General Practice in Aged Care Incentive?**

Through the incentive, GPs and practices may benefit from:

- payments for reviewing their patients in an aged care home, rather than at their practice
- funding to manage the care of residents living in aged care homes
- establishing formal relationships between the patient, GP, practice, and other members of a patient's care team
- opportunities for other members of the practice team to deliver care to residents in aged care homes.

## **How will residential aged care homes benefit from the General Practice in Aged Care Incentive?**

Residential aged care homes may benefit from:

- knowing that people in their care are getting regular and coordinated primary health care
- assurance that care plans are reviewed as needs change
- stronger relationships between the practice and the aged care home
- the opportunity for more people in their care to have a regular GP
- feeling supported as part of the extended healthcare team
- meeting Aged Care Quality Standards responsibilities by ensuring their residents can access safe and effective clinical care.

## **What implementation support will be available to GPs and practices?**

General Practice in Aged Care Incentive support includes:

- Primary Health Networks (PHNs) providing support to aged care homes and general practices to improve primary care access for people living in residential aged care

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- best practice guidance and tools to support GPs and practices to deliver the most appropriate care to aged care residents and to support GPs' contribution to care plans.

## More information

- General Practice in Aged Care Incentive: [health.gov.au/our-work/gpaci](http://health.gov.au/our-work/gpaci)
- Department of Health and Aged Care: [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)
- Services Australia: [servicesaustralia.gov.au/general-practice-aged-care-incentive](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/general-practice-aged-care-incentive)
- MyMedicare: [health.gov.au/our-work/mymedicare](http://health.gov.au/our-work/mymedicare)

Your local general practice, Aboriginal Medical Service, or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. Health Direct is a helpful place to start when looking for a health service: [healthdirect.gov.au](http://healthdirect.gov.au)

Your local Primary Health Network: [health.gov.au/our-work/phn](http://health.gov.au/our-work/phn).



All information in this publication is correct as of August 2024.