

## Questions & Answers

### MPS webinar: Aged care reforms: impacts on the MPS program and providers – 19 June 2024

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## Introduction

On 19 June 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) hosted a webinar for MPS providers, to explain how aged care reforms will impact the MPS program and its providers. The Department thanks all attendees for their engagement.

This webinar is part of a series for the Department to talk directly to MPS providers, sharing information, answering questions, and seeking input for the design and implementation of reforms. These webinars build on the Department's ongoing engagement on MPS reforms with state and territory health department officials, through the MPS Working Group.

This document aims to provide a summary of some of the key questions and answers from the webinar, grouped into themes:

- MPS trials of 24/7 Registered Nurse (24/7 RN) and direct care minute requirements
- Registration/Obligations for MPS providers under the New Act
- Other questions

The answers below incorporate verbal responses from the Department's officials during the webinar, with further information added if required for clarity and for any questions that did not receive a response during the session. Responses were correct as at the time of the webinar.

## Question and Answers

### MPS trials of 24/7 RN and care minute requirements

- 1. I'm in Victoria and was unaware that there were trials to participate in. Do you have a newsletter?**

We don't have a newsletter, but a dedicated MPS Reforms web page will be coming soon. Trial sites were nominated through our MPS Working Group. If anyone else wants to participate our team would be keen to hear from them via [MPSreforms@health.gov.au](mailto:MPSreforms@health.gov.au).

- 2. Have the participating states been notified?**

Yes, the states have been notified. Once we have the contact details for all trial sites we'll be distributing trial information to all participating sites. If your jurisdiction nominated your site, then we have accepted that nomination.

- 3. If we have a registered nurse rostered to work in the MPS but not directly in aged care does that comply?**

Yes, depending on the circumstances, if a registered nurse (RN) at an MPS is available and can work across both aged care and health, then that complies. The RN is considered to be 'onsite' and on

duty if their duty statement or employment conditions do not prevent them from assisting with the delivery of aged care services or at the aged care facility.

We are keen to work with the trial sites on frequently asked questions and relevant scenarios. If you have scenarios that you would like us to include in the pack, please let us know at [MPSReforms@health.gov.au](mailto:MPSReforms@health.gov.au)

- 4. One of the concerns I have as a small MPS manager is the consideration of safe staffing levels where your registered nurse may be busy providing care in the emergency department of the MPS, limiting capacity to support in aged care.**

The Department is keen to test this through the 24/7 RN and care minutes trials in MPS.

We will explore this type of issue with the trial sites.

- 5. Can you please outline differences in proposed accreditation and quality standards between MPS and RACFs? It would be helpful to know similarities and differences for jurisdictions/providers who operate in both spaces.**

It is expected that the next webinar will include representatives from the relevant regulatory bodies for both health and aged care, who will outline the work they are doing to update the Aged Care Module to take account of the new strengthened National Quality Standards.

## **Registration/Obligations for MPS providers under the New Act**

- 6. Under the new aged care worker screening framework, will AHPRA-registered workers have to undergo any additional screening?**

To work in a risk-assessed role in aged care under the new aged care worker screening framework (to be introduced alongside the new Act), you will only need one of these:

- an Aged Care Worker Screening Check
- an NDIS Worker Screening Check
- AHPRA registration.

This means that AHPRA-registered workers will not have to undertake additional worker screening clearance if they work for an aged care provider. However, additional worker screening may be required if they work for an NDIS provider.

More information is available [here](#).

- 7. Is it safe to say that providers can use the pre-audit preparation self-assessment tool for the strengthened standards to assess our MPS services considering that the updated model is likely to be modelled on the new standards and registration categories?**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare is currently updating the MPS Module based on feedback from an initial gap analysis. The updated MPS Modules will represent the actions that MPS providers are required to undertake to meet the strengthened aged care standards. The Commission supports providers with a user guide and a self-assessment/monitoring tool. These will be updated and available once the MPS Module is updated.

- 8. Has there been any consideration for MPS who are also NDIS providers with the challenges with multiple accreditation requirements?**

We are aware of the challenges across the whole care sector in terms of multiple accreditation and regulatory requirements.

Where possible we are trying to align aged care and NDIS requirements, particularly through the development of the new Aged Care Act, and work with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

We would welcome any detail on specific challenges, particularly on the NDIS side for MPS providers, and any ideas that you have, either through the MPS Working Group or directly to [MPSReforms@health.gov.au](mailto:MPSReforms@health.gov.au).

**9. Will the aged care worker screening check also review the ACQSC banning orders?**

The aged care worker screening check will involve an assessment conducted by a state or territory worker screening unit to determine whether a person poses a risk when working, or seeking to work, with individuals accessing funded aged care. The assessment will look at the person's criminal history, misconduct and disciplinary action taken in previous jobs and results of previous NDIS worker screening applications. The worker screening unit may request information from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission about a person's misconduct history, including any banning orders that apply to that person.

The Department is working with the states and territories on implementing aged care worker screening checks, which will be the same as the NDIS Worker Screening Check. For more information please visit [www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care-workforce/screening-requirements](http://www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care-workforce/screening-requirements) or email [WorkerRegulationSe@health.gov.au](mailto:WorkerRegulationSe@health.gov.au).

**10. We have had staff who have WWC and ACCRS and have been denied an NDIS screening.**

NDIS screening check is a more recent creation and that is what aged care will leverage off in creating its check. Aged care criminal record screening is a lower bar if you like than what the NDIS worker screening check is which does take in real time feeds of several different datasets from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and other pieces. That is where aged care is headed, to leverage off and model the same approach. Some of those other checks that don't have that real time feed in from multiple sources may not necessarily *identify issues that the NDIS screening check and the aged care check may identify. We are headed to that level of screening in aged care as well is probably the point.*

## Other questions

**11. Will you be making a copy of the presentation slides available please? And I didn't register personally but through a PSRACS (Victoria) newsletter link. How will we get access to a copy of the webinar?**

Yes, we will be distributing copies of the webinar slides. The MPS reform web page (coming soon) will be a one stop shop for all future MPS Webinar related contents, including copies of presentation slides.

## Document History

Version	Date	Q&As added	Q&A edited
1.1	June 2024	All	9 September 2024

## Acronym/ Abbreviation

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
MPS	Multi-Purpose Service
Act	The new Aged Care Act
Health	The Department of Health and Aged Care
ACQSC	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
RACFs	Resident Aged Care Facility/s
AHPRA	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
WWC	Working with Children Check
ACCRS	Aged care criminal record screening