

Questions & Answers

MPS webinar: Aged care reforms: impacts on the MPS program and providers – 29 July 2024

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Introduction

On 29 July 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 Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) program and its providers. Health thanks all attendees for their engagement.

The webinar was the third in a series 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.

The webinar included the following topics:

- Reform schedule developments and quick updates
- Direct care targets trial
- Updates to the MPS Module
- Provider obligations under the new Act (Part 2)

This document is a summary of key questions and answers from the webinar, grouped into themes.

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 Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT)

- 1. Will all existing/current MPS residents require reassessment on the IAT by July 2025 even if they are already assessed under the NSAF?**

Transitional arrangements for existing MPS residents are still being finalised and will be discussed at the next MPS reform webinar..

Our aim is to avoid re-assessments where possible. However, to ensure continuity of services, MPS providers are likely to be required to provide certain information about existing clients to ensure we can confirm they meet any legal requirements and avoid any disruption to services, or need for a formal re-assessment of their aged care service needs.

- 2. Will the IAT be compulsory for all new MPS residents following the launch of the new Aged Care Act, or will there be a lead time before it is compulsory?**

Yes – all new applicants for Commonwealth aged care services after the commencement of the new Aged Care Act, if eligible, will need to undertake a needs assessment with an approved needs assessor. The IAT will be the assessment tool used by the assessor.

Updating the MPS Module to align with the strengthened Quality Standards

3. Will the Aged Care Module cover services delivered in the community as well as bed based (residential) aged care?

Yes - the MPS Aged Care Module will cover all services provided by an MPS.

Provider obligations under the new Act (Part 2)

4. Can we get some clarity on any financial penalty for not notifying of material changes within the time frame?

The [exposure draft](#) of the Bill for the new Aged Care Act at section 110 currently outlines a proposed civil penalty of 30 penalty units where a registered provider fails to notify the Commissioner or a change in circumstances where required. However, any final penalty arrangements will be dependent on Parliamentary passage of the Bill and any subsequent amendments made to this provision.

It is also noted that the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has a range of regulatory powers available to utilise in order to manage a provider's failure to comply with their obligations under the Act. Any regulatory response is expected to be proportionate to the any identified breach, and would take into the provider's broader conduct and any history of compliance or non-compliance.

General Questions

5. Where can I access a copy of the Exposure Draft for the new Aged Care Act?

An [exposure draft](#) of the Bill for the new Aged Care Act was released for public consultation, which ran from 14 December 2023 to 8 March 2024, and is available on the Department's website.

Document History

Version	Date	Q&A added	Q&A edited
1.1	29 July 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
NSQHS	National Safety and Quality Health Commission