

This guide has been developed for clinical aged care needs assessors to inform and support their decision making when recommending a high priority for a Home Care Package.

## High Priority is defined as:

*Client is considered at urgent and immediate risk in terms of their personal safety or at immediate risk of admission into residential care. The client may have a carer and the carer arrangements are unsustainable or the carer is at crisis point.*



### CARER ARRANGEMENTS ARE UNSUSTAINABLE OR CARER AT CRISIS POINT



### CLIENT AT IMMEDIATE RISK DUE TO PERSONAL SAFETY OR IMMEDIATE RISK OF ADMISSION INTO RESIDENTIAL CARE

#### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ASSIGNING HIGH PRIORITY

The carer is in crisis or no longer able to provide care due to:

- A change in the carer/s personal circumstances i.e. death/significant decline in carers own health status.
- An inability to sustain their caring role due to a lack of assistance being received i.e. the client has significant needs and no (or minimal) support is being provided.

*NOTE: Carer in crisis is different to caregiver stress. Caregiver stress is a condition of exhaustion, anger, or guilt that results from unrelieved caring for a chronically ill dependent. The stress can vary depending on the individual, and generally does not prohibit the carer from providing care. Caregiver stress can be reduced by accessing respite care.*

Personal safety at risk and/or:

- There is an immediate risk of the client entering residential care due to:
  - Carer in crisis and/or inability of carer to offer required support; or
  - Lack of interim services to meet the client needs.

And, if the client had access to these services (as soon as possible), they could be managed at home.

#### OTHER FORMAL/ INFORMAL SUPPORT CONSIDERATIONS

- Emergency respite care <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/residential-aged-care/managing-residential-aged-care-services/managing-residential-respite-care-allowances>
- Carer gateway <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/>
- Residential respite <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/help-and-support/caring-me/available-support-carers/planned-emergency-respite>
- Carers Australia <https://www.carersaustralia.com.au/>

- After-hospital care (transition care) <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/short-term-care/transition-care>
- Short term restorative care <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/short-term-restorative-care-strc-programme> NB Available only to clients who are not already receiving a home care package

**NOTE** If the client does not wish to accept other interim services or informal/formal supports they should not be considered high priority.