

## Questions & Answers

### MPS webinar: Aged care reforms: impacts on the MPS program and providers – 28 November 2024

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#### Introduction

On 28 November 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.

The webinar was the fifth 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:

- Update on the new Aged Care Act and related Rules
- Update on transitional arrangements for the new Act
- Update on other MPS reforms and activities

This document is a summary of key questions and answers from the webinar.

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.

#### Questions and Answers

##### New Aged Care Act and Related Rules

###### **1. Do we know what the new actions will be for MPS under the new Quality Standards?**

New and robust quality standards will apply from 1 July 2025 and they will apply equally to all providers who are registered in categories 4, 5 and 6. There will be no exception for MPS to that obligation. We encourage providers to have a look at the revised [Aged Care Quality Standards](#) available on the Department's website. They will then officially appear in the form of actual rules in the New Year.

###### **2. Is there likely to be interim funding arrangements to ensure sites are viable with changes whilst the actual MPS funding model is developed.**

Apart from MPS subsidy rate increase from 1 July 2025 (with indexation), there is no commitment to increase the funding in MPS specifically for the implementation of the New Act.

The Department will be looking at the new funding model as part of the overall reform schedule, though we do have a couple of points where we will consider interim additional funding uplifts, noting this is subject to Government approval.

Jurisdictions who have sites participating in the Direct Care Minutes trial, have been allocated additional funding across all MPS sites.

### **Transitional arrangements for the new Act**

**3. *Can I confirm that as client data will be sought, will the transfer of information occur by a secure electronic file arrangements to comply with the Legislation?***

Yes, the Department plans to organise secure electronic file arrangements and is currently working through privacy requirements to ensure that obligations for providers and clients are met. The intent is to ensure the transfer of data and storage complies with relevant legislation.

**4. *If a client transfers from one MPS site to another MPS site but will receive the same services. Will they need a reassessment?***

No. With Transitional arrangements clients will receive approval to access the relevant services and can effectively take that to any MPS site.

There is potentially some complexity if the client moves from MPS to mainstream residential aged care because currently in HCP (and the new Support at Home) clients will have classification levels that MPS does not have. You are required to know what the classification level is before a mainstream provider can start delivering services.

**5. *Currently IAT is not required for MPS and may be required when the Act commences in July 2025. You had mentioned for services to seek IAT now for clients. Can you please clarify.***

When the new Act commences, all new MPS clients need to have an IAT assessment but alternative entry arrangements will be in place for emergency situations.

Providers do have the option of getting IAT assessments on MPS clients now, like with ACAT assessments. This is at the MPS providers discretion and may assist with transition to the new Act.

In the Transitional arrangements there is a provision in development, eliminating the need for retrospective assessments in an MPS.

### **24/7 RN in MPS**

**6. *Will 24/7 reporting look the same or different in the new world after the Act?***

24/7 RN reporting requirements will not change when the new Act comes in, so therefore, reporting for MPS also will not change.

**7. *Is there a minimum bed requirement for a site to be exempt from the reporting for 24/7 RN in an MPS?***

In mainstream residential aged care, sites can apply for an exemption if they are in MM 5-7 and have 30 or less beds. It is something the Department will explore in Phase 2 of the trial to see if current exemptions are fit for purpose for MPS.

## Document History

Version	Date	Q&As added	Q&A edited
0.1	November 2024	All	Pending

## Acronym/ Abbreviation

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
MPS	Multi-Purpose Service
Act	The new Aged Care Act
Department	The Department of Health and Aged Care
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
IAT	Integrated Assessment Tool (Single Assessment System)
RN	Registered Nurse
HCP	Home Care Package
MM	Monash Modified (Model)