



# Improving allied health care in residential aged care

## Developing an aged care allied health needs assessment tool

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has engaged [HealthConsult](#), in partnership with [Allied Health Professions Australia](#) and [Liquid Interactive](#), to develop a practical, user-friendly assessment tool to identify the allied health needs of residents in aged care homes.

## Why is this important?

Currently, aged care providers lack a consistent method for assessing residents' allied health needs, leading to potential gaps in essential care. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety emphasised the need for standardised, evidence-based assessment tools. Such tools would help reliably identify residents' needs and ensure appropriate referrals to allied health professionals—including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dietitians and podiatrists.

This project directly supports the Australian Government's aged care reforms, including the National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator Program, by promoting timely, targeted, and high-quality allied health care for residents.

## What will the project involve?

HealthConsult and partners will:

- consult with aged care providers, residents, and allied health professionals to understand current needs and practices
- collaboratively develop and test a practical, user-friendly digital assessment tool
- pilot the assessment tool in selected residential aged care homes to evaluate effectiveness
- refine the tool based on pilot feedback and stakeholder input.

Residents will play a central role in the co-design process, ensuring the tool accurately reflects their needs and preferences.

## How to get involved

We invite you to participate or stay informed about the project.

Email [AHNAT@healthconsult.com.au](mailto:AHNAT@healthconsult.com.au) to:

- **Aged care homes:** Register your interest to participate in the pilot program
- **Stay informed:** Join our mailing list to receive regular project updates and announcements.

## Key project dates

May 2025	Expert panels established
April–June 2025	Stakeholder consultations and evidence review
May–July 2025	Co-design workshops with aged care providers, residents, and allied health professionals
September 2025	Digital assessment tool prototype developed
November–December 2025	Pilot testing in selected aged care homes
December–January 2025	Evaluation and refinement of the assessment tool
February 2026	Final report submitted

## Be part of shaping better care

Your insights and experience are crucial. By participating, you'll help create a tool that simplifies care delivery for staff, ensures residents receive appropriate allied health services, and supports aged care providers to meet quality standards more efficiently.

### Get involved

Want more details? Interested in participating?

[AHNAT@healthconsult.com.au](mailto:AHNAT@healthconsult.com.au)