



Understanding fees for residential respite care

If you are approved for respite care in an aged care home, the Australian Government will subsidise your costs. You will also be expected to contribute to the cost of your care.

Fees and contributions you may pay

Your aged care provider may ask you to pay up to 3 types of fees:

- basic daily fee
- booking fee
- higher everyday living fee (optional).

These are recorded in your respite service agreement, and if needed, your higher everyday living agreement.

Basic daily fee

All residents pay this fee for daily living services, including meals, cleaning, laundry and utilities.

The maximum fee is set at 85% of the single basic age pension. This fee increases in March and September each year in line with the age pension.

Visit myagedcare.gov.au for current fee rates.

Booking fee

Your provider can ask you to pay a booking fee to secure a period of respite care. Once you enter care, they will deduct this fee from your daily fees. The booking fee cannot be more than:

- one week's fee for respite care
- 25% of the fee for the proposed period of respite care.

Higher everyday living fee

This is an optional fee for individuals wishing to receive a higher standard of everyday living services. It can be charged for services (other than accommodation related services) that are of a higher standard or in addition to those your aged care home must provide. The specific services, and the fees for each, are agreed between you and your provider after you enter care. You can't be asked to pay for a service you're unable to use. After agreeing, you have 28 days to change your mind and cancel your higher everyday living agreement. Find out more at [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au).

You don't need a means assessment

Respite fees are not based on your income and assets, so you don't need a means assessment to find out how much you pay. The same fees apply for everyone.

Unlike a resident in permanent care, you will not pay any means tested fees or accommodation costs.

Cancelling your respite booking

If you cancel more than 7 days before your entry date, your provider will refund your full booking fee.

If you cancel within 7 days before your entry date, your provider can keep all or part of your booking fee. This does not apply in some circumstances, such as if you're admitted to hospital.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) recipients

If you are an eligible former Prisoner of War (POW) or Victoria Cross (VC) recipient, DVA may pay your basic daily fee. You can find more information at [dva.gov.au](https://www.dva.gov.au).

Seek financial advice and education

You may wish to seek independent financial advice before deciding how to pay for aged care.

In addition, Services Australia's [Financial Information Service](https://www.fis.gov.au) (FIS) provides free, independent and confidential information and education. This can help you make informed decisions about your financial needs and understand how aged care costs may affect your finances. FIS Officers aren't financial counsellors or planners. They don't give advice, deal with other agencies on your behalf, or make decisions about your government payments.

To find out more about FIS, or to make an appointment, phone 132 300 and say 'Financial Information Service' when asked why you're calling.

Financial hardship assistance

If you can't afford your aged care fees for reasons beyond your control, you can apply for financial hardship assistance. To apply you must meet certain eligibility criteria, and you must first complete an aged care means assessment. If you're approved for hardship assistance, the government will pay some (or all) of your aged care fees.

To find out more about residential respite care visit myagedcare.gov.au.