

2025-26 Multi-Purpose Service Program (MPSP) Allocations Round: guidance for providers

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This document is designed to assist providers to make a request for additional places to be allocated to their Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) through the *2025-26 Multi-Purpose Services Places Allocations Round* which is now open. Please review all the information within this guide and any relevant sections for the [Multi-Purpose Service Program Manual](#) before proceeding to make a request. Make a request using this form: ***Request for additional residential places to expand an existing Multi-Purpose Service (MPS)***

What is the Multi-Purpose Service Program (MPSP)?

The [MPSP](#) is a joint initiative of Commonwealth, and State and Territory governments. The program provides integrated health and aged care services for older people living in small rural towns and remote areas, including where stand-alone aged care and health services may not be able to be supported. It allows older people in these areas to use health and aged care services closer to home.

Allocation and management of places under the MPSP

To facilitate block funding arrangements for the MPSP, places are allocated to providers for use at, or through, their MPS (i.e. at an approved residential care home).

Each financial year the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors determines how many places are available for allocation under the *Aged Care Act 2024* (the Act) for the MPSP. Once available, places can then be allocated by a delegate within the Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care (the Department). Places will be allocated out of effect and subject to certain conditions.

Commonwealth funding will only be payable for these places once allocated places are brought into effect within a 5 year period. Before this can occur, the Department must be satisfied that there is a physical bed in the MPS 'ready' to be used to deliver these services.

As outlined below, a separate application process is in place to determine this. As a preliminary step, providers **may** also need to first vary the approval of the residential care home with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ASQSC) – that is, where this is necessary to ensure they don't exceed the maximum number of aged care beds covered by their approval.

Once places are in effect, Commonwealth funding can, however, be used flexibly to provide aged care services to older people approved to access those services, and is not dependant on occupancy.

For more information see further information below and the [Multi-Purpose Service Program Manual](#).

What is the objective of the MPSP places allocation round for 2025-26?

The Australian Government is committed to improving access to aged care services in rural and remote, including through expanding the MPSP.

This Round is for places intended to be used to deliver Commonwealth funded residential care services under the *Aged Care Act 2024* in an existing MPS. It will support the further expansion of residential care capacity under the MPSP to meet identified growing community need.

How many places are available?

The Minister has determined that 100 places for **residential care** are available for allocation in 2025-26.

Note: MPSP home and community places are not available for 2025-26 and will not be allocated in this round.

MAKING A REQUEST

Completing your request form

You should present an evidence-based request that supports identified need for additional services in the community where your MPS is located.

You should also provide complete and accurate information as your request may be decided on the basis of the information provided, and for them basis of the any subsequent conditions of allocation that are attached allocated places. Please respond to questions within the prescribed word limits in a clear and concise manner and include attachments where indicated. Responses exceeding the prescribed word limits may not be considered in full. Word limits do not apply to required attachments unless specified.

Submitting a query

While the Round is open, Departmental officers will not comment on the content or merit of your application. We will only provide advice on matters of fact or technical issues related to the completion or submission of your request. Please submit questions of this nature in writing to the Department at MPsagedcare@health.gov.au.

Incomplete or invalid requests may not be considered

Your request for additional places **may** not be processed if it is:

- not provided by the due date
- in the form required by the Department (see below)
- in an altered version of this form or incomplete, or
- identified to contain false or misleading information

You will be notified in writing if this occurs.

Important:

- Your request **must** be made using the application form downloaded from the Department's website.
- It **must** be submitted in the Microsoft Word 'doc' file format provided. Attachments and a signed endorsement page can, however, be provided in PDF format.

Notification of any changes

You should notify the department in writing of any change that will significantly affect your capacity to implement your proposal. Notification should be made as soon as any change becomes evident. This must be submitted in writing, by email to MPsagedcare@health.gov.au.

Not a contractual arrangement

Your request is not evidence of any form of legal agreement. Should you enter into contractual arrangements with other parties before being advised in writing of the results of the Round, you do so at your own risk.

HOW TO LODGE YOUR REQUEST

Your **completed and signed** (electronic signature block acceptable) request forms should be submitted, together with associated attachments where required and referenced via email to the department at MPsagedcare@health.gov.au by **2pm AEST Friday, 22 May 2026**.

The department will send you an acknowledgment of receipt. **If you do not receive this, please contact the MPSP team before the due date to confirm receipt before due date.**

IMPORTANT:

- It is **your responsibility** to ensure that your application is received by the closing date. An application that is received after the closing date may **not** proceed to assessment.
- The department cannot guarantee acceptance of emails over 12mb. Additionally, your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may impose limitations on the size of emails being sent.
- Paper forms will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and with prior-approval from the MPSP team. This must be sought from the Department prior at least 2 days before the due date.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

How will requests for place allocation be assessed?

Your requests will be considered by representatives of the MPSP team within Thin Markets Branch, in consultation with Local Network representatives and/or other Departmental staff where relevant.

Recommendations for place allocations will then be prepared for consideration by the delegate who will be the Assistant Secretary, Thin Markets Branch – with place allocation decisions to be made before 30 June 2026, and subsequently notified.

What will be considered?

When considering requests for the allocation of a places, the Department will consider the information you have provided taking into account the assessment criteria below, as well any other relevant information available to the Department.

Requests for additional information

The Department may seek clarification or additional information from you when considering your request. Where this occurs, it should not be taken as an indication of the likely outcome of your request.

Assessment criteria

Before making a decision to allocate a place under section 95 of the Act, a Departmental delegate **must** consider:

- the objectives of the MPSP and how many places are available for allocation
- the community needs in locations where individuals are expected to be able to access funded aged care services using the place
- the Statement of Principles under the Act, and
- any information or documents given by the entity in relation to the allocation of the place.

To allocate a place, the delegate must also be satisfied that you are still a registered provider who has and MPSP agreement in place, and allocating a place(s) would:

- be likely to **contribute to quality and safe funded aged care services being delivered to individuals, and**
- would **not** result in a situation where, once the relevant places are brought into effect, there are more places in effect than physical beds at the MPS*

***Note:** in practice, this means that:

- there must already be an **additional physical bed** at the MPS that are you are **not** currently using for the delivery of aged care services for which you are now seeking a place (e.g. you are switching an acute bed to an aged care bed or have recently expanded the MPS to include additional beds), **or**
- you must be seeking a place(s) to support applications for additional capital grant funding and/or capital works that will result in the expansion of residential capacity at your MPS.

Probity

The Department must ensure request are assessed in fair and equitable manner. In accordance with the *APS Code of Conduct* the officers involved in the Round will disclose, and take reasonable steps to avoid, any conflict of interest (real or apparent) in connection those processes.

Use and protection of information

Information you provide to the Department may be considered *protected information* under section 21 of the Act, noting the Act provides for authorised disclosures of this information in certain circumstances.

Information contained in your request may be considered as part of the assessment of subsequent requests for places and/or requests for Commonwealth funding in other processes.

The outcomes of the Round, including the numbers of will also be published on the Department's website.

AFTER THE ROUND IS COMPLETE

Notification of outcomes

All applicants will receive written advice about the outcome of their request in July 2026. This will explain the conditions of allocation (see Conditions of allocation below) and how you can request an out of effect place to be made in effect when ready (see *When and how should residential care places be brought into effect?* below). As noted above, place allocations for 2025-26 will also be published on the Department's website.

What if my request is unsuccessful?

If providers seek more places than available for allocation in 2025-26, places will be allocated on a prioritisation basis and your request may not be successful. If this occurs, you will be able to request specific written feedback from the Department. There will, however, be further opportunities to request new places for allocation in 2026-27, including to support new MPS being established.

Note: A decision to allocate a places under section 95 is not a reviewable decision under the Act.

Conditions of allocation

If you are allocated a place, there will be conditions imposed as provided for under section 99 of the Act. These include that you must only use the place to deliver funded aged care services to an individual approved to access the service group, with a classification type of ongoing or short-term.

Consistent with section 99-5 of the Aged Care Rules 2025 (the Rules), it will also be a condition that the allocated place only be used at either the approved residential care home or other location specified in the notice of place allocation sent to you by the Department.

Note: this information will also align with the locations for delivery of services service specified in your MPSP agreement.

When and how should residential care places be brought into effect?

Providers are encouraged to seek to bring places into effect as soon as possible to help meet growing community needs.

Sections 97 of the Act and the Rules together set out when an allocated place can come into effect for the first time. To facilitate this, as a registered provider with an MPSP agreement in place, the remaining step will be for you to **complete an application process** to enable the Department to confirm that a bed in an approved residential care home (i.e. in your MPS) is ready to be used for the delivery of funded aged care services under the place.

You should use the *Application to bring an allocated residential care place(s) into effect at a Multi-Purpose Service* on the Department's website to do so. Following a successful application to bring a place(s) into effect, the Department will then work with you to vary your MPSP agreement to facilitate additional funding being payable under the Act for the relevant place(s).

Important:

- **Before submitting the above application form**, providers must consider whether they first need to vary the approval of their residential care home with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) under section 137 of the Act (see below). This will be required if the provider is seeking to increase the number of beds at the home, beyond the number covered by their existing approval.
- Providers should not seek to vary their approval prior to being allocated a new place(s) by the Department. But if required, you should do this before applying to bring new places into effect. If you don't need to vary your approval you can proceed straight to making an application to bring the new places into effect.

Varying your residential care home approval to cater for additional beds

Information on how to seek a variation to the approval of your residential care home (i.e. your MPS) can be found on the ACQSC's web site:

- [Applications, requests and notifications](#)
- [Guidance: Application for variation](#) – see: *Request to vary the total number of beds of an approved residential care home*

Note:

- Providers operating within the MPSP are exempt from ACQSC charging in accordance with the Charging Framework and Cost Recovery Policy [ACQSC - Cost recovery](#). As a result, applicants will **not** be charged fees to vary their approval, where the change relates solely to the provision of MPSP services.

What do I need to do if bed numbers later change at my MPS?

If you only deliver services under the MPSP, you do need to ensure your residential care home approval covers the **maximum** number of beds you will be utilising at your home to deliver funded aged care services. However, unlike mainstream residential care providers, you are not, however, required to provide advice to the ASQSC if you take places offline for limited periods.

As outlined in the [Multi-Purpose Service Program Manual](#) and section 99-5 of the Rules, consistent with the conditions that apply to an allocated place under the MPSP, you must, however, notify the Department if you will not be able to, or do not intend to, use an in effect place allocated after 1 November 2025 to deliver funded aged care services for a period of 12 months or more.

Note: You could contact the MPSP team via the MPS Aged Care in box in this scenario; this process is not managed by the ASQSC.

APPLICATION GUIDANCE – SECTION 1

General – MPS Details

Please provide the requested details within the table on page 1.

- Registered provider name
- Name of the MPS the places are sought for
- GPMS ID
- MPS street address and details
- Postal address for the provider if different to the MPS address
- Primary and secondary contact names and contact details for the application

The number of places sought

At section 1.1 of the application form, enter the number of new residential care places sought for this MPS within the field. Note that the Department is unable to guarantee the number of requested places will be available.

Number of beds at the MPS

At 1.2(a), please enter the actual number of physical beds that are available at the MPS (that is, beds that are used for health and/or aged care services).

At 1.2 (b), please enter the number of beds at the MPS that are actually **available** to deliver Commonwealth funded residential care services. Do not include beds that can only be used to deliver for health services (e.g. acute or sub-acute care beds).

At 1.2 (c), please enter the number of beds at the MPS that are being **used** to deliver Commonwealth funded residential care services. Do not include beds that can only be used to deliver health services (e.g. acute or sub-acute care beds).

At 1.2 (d), please confirm whether you already have additional bed(s) available in your MPS to accommodate these new places. If not, you will need to provide further information at 1.3 regarding planned capital works (see below), in order for the delegate to allocate additional place(s).

Capital works required to accommodate the places sought in this application

Please provide additional details at section 1.3 to explain the works that will be undertaken to accommodate the places sought.

Make sure you enter a written response for each of the points listed i.e. a) to e) separately, and include any evidence to support these responses. For example, copies of approvals. Please ensure attachments are labelled.

The word limit for this question is 500 words. This does not include the attachments.

When will the places planned to come into effect?

Use the table to at 1.4 to provide the expected timeframe that your organisation plans to bring the places into effect after a notification of allocation (successful). That is – the total number of out of effect places (existing and/or through the 2025-26 allocation) planned to be brought into effect immediately; within 3 months; within 12 months or more than 12 months.

Explanation for a phased implementation

At 1.4a) include a rationale to support the responses at 1.4 including a timeline.

The word limit for this question is 250 words.

Identify any anticipated risks that may affect your organisation's ability to accommodate additional places.

At section 1.5, please detail the risks that may impact on the organisation's ability to meet the timeframes specified at section 1.4. In your response, you may provide details outlining your organisation's capacity to meet the proposed timeframes, such as:

- staffing strategies to ensure the service can deliver the places sought within the timeframe
- linkages, formal or informal, with other organisations that will enable your organisation to commence service delivery within the timeframes
- ongoing organisational/service capacity to continue delivering existing services while establishing service provision for the new places (if relevant)
- obtaining support from the relevant State or Territory health department.

The word limit for this question is 250 words.

How will the risks identified at 1.5 be managed?

Section 1.6 requires you to detail any risk mitigation strategies and/or contingency plans that have been developed to manage the risks identified in section 1.5.

The word limit for this question is 250 words.

Approximately how many additional residential respite bed days per annum will be provided at this MPS as a result of this proposal?

Applicants must specify in the given field at section 1.7, how many additional residential respite bed days per annum are expected to be provided at the MPS should the additional places requested be allocated. If none of the places you are seeking will be used to provide additional respite care, insert 0 (zero).

APPLICATION GUIDANCE - SECTION 2: MPS EXPANSION PROPOSAL

General

In answering these questions, you may wish to include specific references (which must include page numbers) to other relevant documents, for example, the MPS Service Delivery Plan or a Feasibility Study, in which case these should be attached to the application.

Note: You should also consider any changes to the rate of MPSP subsidy that could result from an increase to the total number of places allocated to your MPS, due to the current calculation of the viability supplement component of funding for residential care places – see section 6 of the [MPSP Program Manual](#) for further information.

Provide a description of the proposal to expand residential care capacity at this MPS

At section 2.1 include a detailed description of the proposal for this MPS. This could include details of:

- evidence that demonstrates the current and ongoing need in the area for additional residential care capacity in the local community (e.g. waitlist and occupancy data).
- workforce information that demonstrates the ability to deliver increased residential care services
- any relevant information about the infrastructure for the MPS and the interface between health and residential care services
- how the additional places will:
 - improve access to services and/or improve the quality of care for the local community
 - increase coordination, flexibility and innovation in the delivery of care in the area
 - be cost effective
 - increase services for residents from diverse backgrounds and/or complex needs
 - provide continuity of care for current and future residents, including if capital works are required before new places become effective.

- evidence of support from the local community, existing aged care providers, local government, State/Territory agencies in the area, for the additional places
- details of the physical environment that residents will be in; you may include a copy of the floor plan and/or site plan showing relevant external features.
- any other relevant information to support the allocation of additional places, which could include details of how the places will be accommodated including any:
 - re-organisation of existing space
 - details concerning room configuration (e.g. single with ensuite, double, etc.)
 - evidence such as Certificate of Occupancy or equivalent
 - use of places that are not in-effect
 - current tenancy/occupancy agreements in place (if relevant).

The word limit for this question is 1000 words.

ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICATION

Your application must be signed by a person legally empowered to give assurances and enter into contracts and commitments on behalf of the registered provider.

In signing this endorsement, the relevant person is affirming that this request for additional places has the full consent and support of your organisation’s Board of Directors, State or Territory health department or other equivalent relevant authority.

They are also confirming that:

- all information provided in the request form and attachment(s) is true and complete
- they are aware of your responsibilities as prescribed in the Act and Rules, including that there is a maximum period of 5 years in which to bring any places allocated into effect
- have informed yourself of the implications of changes to the rate of MPSP subsidy that could result from an increase to the total number of places allocated to the MPS.

Important:

- **You are reminded that giving false or misleading information to the Commonwealth is also a serious offence.** There are offences established by the Act and the *Criminal Code Act 1995* relating to providing false or misleading information.