Meeting: IAT and assessment algorithms - Dementia Australia and Dementia Expert Reference Group feedback

When: Thursday, 18th December 2025 1230pm

Chair: Greg Pugh **Attendees:** s47F, Dementia Australia, Rachel Blackwood, Jas Snow, Emily Harper, s47E(c), s47F, and s47E(c), s47F

Opening Remarks

[You may wish to make some general remarks regarding the roles of the respective attendees from the department with respect to Dementia (Emily and s47E(c), s47F), IAT (Rachel and s47E(c), s47F and the classification algorithm (Jas) as a way of introducing everyone and context setting]

High level comments responding to s47F concerns

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The concern already raised about needing a formal diagnosis as a prerequisite for getting more funding

- A formal diagnosis is not required to get more funding.
- When considering the impact of cognitive impairment, the IAT classification algorithm takes into consideration responses from multiple sources i.e.: responses from the IAT questions 'confirmed dementia diagnosis from a geriatrician or neurologist?' **OR** the scoring results from the GPCOG or KICA COG tools **OR** a set of health conditions associated with an indication of cognitive issues.
- Therefore, if there is no confirmed dementia diagnosis, then the IAT classification algorithm would factor in results from either the GPCOG or KICA COG tools score **OR** a set of health conditions associated with an indication of cognitive issues when considering the impact of cognitive impairment.

Talking points (arranged as Q&A for ease of reference):

What does the IAT Classification Algorithm do?

The algorithm determines two key things for older people:

1. **Eligibility or ineligibility** for ongoing home support services
   - Service group: Home Support
   - Classification type: Ongoing
2. **Classification (funding) level**
   - CHSP class
   - Support at Home classifications levels 1–8

Why has the IAT Classification Algorithm been introduced?

To ensure people with similar characteristics and functional needs receive similar levels of support. Designed to achieve:

- **Consistency** – reduces variation caused by subjective judgement.
- **Equity** – fair treatment for all.
- **Confidence** – a transparent, reliable system for older people and families.

How does the IAT Classification Algorithm work?

- It applies a set of rules using responses entered across the IAT domains:
  Carer, Medical & Medications, Function, Physical, Personal Health & Frailty, Social, Cognition, Psychological.
- These inputs reflect a person's clinical characteristics and determine their classification level.
- For the same characteristics, the algorithm always returns the same classification level.
- Classification criteria are set out in section 81-10 of the Aged Care Rules 2025.

How is dementia status factored into the IAT in practice? Is cognitive function routinely considered in all assessments?

- The Cognition section begins with:
  "Confirmed dementia diagnosis from a geriatrician or neurologist?"
- If "No", the assessor is prompted to complete **GPCOG** or **KICA COG** screening tools.
- The algorithm considers multiple indicators of cognitive impairment:
  - A confirmed dementia diagnosis
  - GPCOG or KICA COG scores
  - Relevant health conditions linked to cognitive decline
- Therefore, even without a confirmed diagnosis, cognitive impairment is still factored into classification using validated tools or associated conditions.
- *Note: KICA COG tool is used if the older person identifies as First Nations.*

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ACTION ITEMS

- IAT walkthrough

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s47E(c), s47F

From: s47F @health.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 November 2025 1:33 PM
To: My Aged Care Assessment; s47E(c), s47F ; s47E(c), 47F ; s47E(c), s47F
Cc: acavic; s47F
Subject: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: Previous Dept response to IAT still retaining 'mental retardation' language
Attachments: Warning: NSAF Language Use for Health Conditions [SEC=OFFICIAL]; FW: Warning: National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF) - Health Condition code [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Team

I'm following up as discussed in today's meeting about the use of 'Mental Retardation' and it remaining an option in the IAT (not the Manual as I advised, though it may be in there as well). The Dept indicated in 2021 and again in 2023 (see attachments) that it would be removed when the IAT was developed.

This is an urgent issue to address given that this language does not reflect current language or practice, is not person centred or human rights focussed and is offensive, and that advice was provided previously that it would be resolved.

Can you please advise how this will be actioned,

Thanks

s47F

(she/her)
Manager | Aged Care Assessment and Transition Care Program | Aged Care Unit
Aged Care, Cancer and Specialist Programs Branch
Hositals and Health Services Division
Department of Health
s47F health.vic.gov.au
www.health.vic.gov.au | www.vic.gov.au
Workdays (I work a 9 day fortnight, please see my out of office)

The Victorian Government acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

The Department of Health celebrates, values and includes people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.

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