



# Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) Trial: Factsheet

## Key Facts

- The trial started in November 2019, with the first facility commencing assessments on Monday 25 November 2019.
- The department has recruited four assessment organisations to manage the trial assessors
  - o Access Care Network Australia
  - o Aspire4Life
  - o Care Tasmania
  - o Healthcare Australia
- All assessors hold Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration, and are a mix of registered nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists with a minimum of five years aged care experience.
- Over 150 aged care homes around the country, covering every state and territory, are participating.
- Over 10,000 assessments will be completed by April 2020.
- Participation by resident is voluntary (opt-out). Residents and their decision makers are given a minimum of two weeks' notice to consider their participation in the trial.

## Purpose

On 10 February 2019 the Australian Government announced a trial of an alternative residential aged care funding assessment tool, called the AN-ACC assessment tool. This assessment tool was developed by the University of Wollongong as part of the Resource Utilisation and Classification Study (RUCS), as a possible replacement for the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI). The RUCS reported:

*The AN-ACC Assessment Tool has been designed to capture the core attributes that drive care costs in residential aged care. This is a fundamentally different type of assessment to one that would be undertaken for care planning. It is designed to be robust and concise and able to be undertaken by an external expert clinician who is not familiar with the resident.*

The purpose of the trial is to develop and test a model of external assessment for residential aged care funding. The trial will:

- Field test the assessment tool, IT systems and hardware, support arrangements, and assessment workforce management; and
- Collect data to validate the findings about the expected distribution of care recipient classifications.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
How will the department field test the assessment tool?	<p>The trial will field test the prototype of the AN-ACC funding assessment tool (<a href="#">Appendix 5, Report 7</a>) engaging with a selection of volunteer approved providers and assessment management organisation/s. The assessment management organisation/s will manage a workforce of independent external assessors (registered nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists) to test the AN-ACC assessment tool in select residential aged care facilities across Australia.</p> <p>The University of Wollongong initially tested an independent external assessment model through the RUCS as reported in <a href="#">Report Two: The AN-ACC assessment model</a>. The trial builds on the lessons identified in Report Two and seeks to test the Commonwealth's capability to administer a national workforce of external assessors.</p>
How will external assessors conduct the AN-ACC Assessment Tool?	<p>As per Report Two: <i>"The assessment tool is designed to be implemented using a conversational approach rather than a formal clinical review. It utilises a range of strategies to gather information about the capabilities of the person being assessed, including observation, conversation with co-residents and key informants – family, carers, friends, staff; external health providers – as well as review of relevant documentation."</i></p>
What IT software and hardware will be in use?	<p>The department will be testing a prototype of the AN-ACC tool through an Apple Inc. iPad app. All external assessors will be issued with iPads and paper tools to conduct the assessments. The app will support the external assessor to upload the outcome of the assessment and will not calculate a score for the resident.</p> <p>Assessors will use the tools to undertake the assessment.</p>
What type of information will participating approved providers receive?	<p>Participating approved providers will receive a profile of the collective AN-ACC classification scores for their facility. Due to ethics considerations this data will be de-identified. The department has received ethics approval for the trial through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Neither the department, external assessor nor an approved provider will be able to access AN-ACC classification scores identifiable against an individual resident. This is the same approach and ethos that applied to the collection of data for the RUCS.</p>

Question	Answer
Which organisations have been chosen to manage the external assessment workforces?	<p>The department released a Request for Tender (RFT) on 1 August 2019 seeking assessment management services to support the department to complete assessments nationwide. The RFT closed on 2 September 2019.</p> <p>The department engaged the following organisation in October 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Access Care Network Australia</li> <li>o Aspire4Life</li> <li>o Care Tasmania</li> <li>o Healthcare Australia</li> </ul> <p>The outcome of the RFT is published on AusTender.</p>
What is the schedule for the trial?	<p><u>October 2019</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage assessment management organisation/s</li> <li>• Map out geographical sites for the trial</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2019</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence training of external assessor workforce</li> <li>• Commence assessments</li> </ul> <p><u>April 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessments completed</li> </ul> <p><u>June 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of trial</li> </ul>
Will residents have a choice about participating in the trial?	<p>Yes. Residents can choose to opt out of participating in the trial. The department provides information (posters and information sheets) to facilities that are required to be placed with residents and decision makers at least two weeks before assessments commence at the facility. The assessor will then confirm with the resident prior to assessment that they would like to proceed.</p>

The trial will **NOT** re-examine the findings of the University of Wollongong’s research that underpins the AN-ACC, including the assessment tools, cost drivers of care, hours of care by class or the cost weights assigned to each class.

Note: the tender for the trial assessment workforce is separate from proposals to implement a streamlined consumer assessment for aged care.

## More information

Visit: <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/reform/residential-aged-care-funding-reform>

Email: [ResiFundingTrial@health.gov.au](mailto:ResiFundingTrial@health.gov.au)