



Understanding fees for residential respite care

Fees you may be asked to pay

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.

Respite fees are not the same as those for permanent residents in an aged care home. Your aged care provider **cannot** ask you to pay a means-tested care fee or an accommodation payment.

Your provider may ask you to pay up to four types of fees. These must be recorded in your resident agreement.

Basic daily fee

Everyone pays this fee. The maximum fee is set at 85% of the single basic age pension.

Booking fee

Your provider may ask you to pay a booking fee to secure a period of respite care in your preferred home. Once you enter the service, your provider will deduct this fee from your daily fees. The booking fee cannot exceed whichever is lower of:

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

Additional service fees

Many aged care homes offer additional services above those required by legislation that you can buy for a fee. These can be offered as individual services or a bundle of services. You and your provider must agree on a fee before you start receiving them. Your provider can only charge you for additional services that you can make use of or benefit from.

Extra service fee

If you agree to enter an extra service room, your provider can charge you an extra service fee. This fee pays for a bundle of extra hotel-type services, such as specialised menus or higher quality linen. You must pay this fee whether you use all the services or not.

What happens to my booking fee if I cancel my respite care 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.

What if I cannot afford the fees?

You may wish to seek independent financial advice before deciding how to pay for aged care. Services Australia's free [Financial Information Service](#) (FIS) can help you understand how aged care costs may affect your finances. To find out more about FIS or to make an appointment, phone 132 300 and say "Financial Information Service" when asked why you are calling.

If you cannot pay your aged care fees due to circumstances outside your control, you can apply for financial hardship assistance. You must meet certain eligibility criteria to receive financial hardship assistance and each case is assessed on an individual basis. Read more about [financial hardship assistance](#) at myagedcare.gov.au.