

Home and Community Care (HACC) Program Position Statement:
Palliative Care

The HACC Review Agreement 2007 stated that the provision of “specialist palliative care services” is outside the scope of the HACC Program. This is because funding is already provided for them through other government programs and the focus of the HACC Program is to provide basic maintenance and support services.

Therefore palliative care patients should not be excluded from HACC services on the basis of being in receipt of a palliative care service; rather they should be assessed on the same basis as all other people seeking access to HACC services.

This is in line with the National HACC Program Guidelines which state that people in the HACC target group who are receiving palliative care services may be eligible for complementary (non- specialist) HACC services.

Eligibility for palliative care patients, as for all other people seeking to access HACC services, should be assessed on the basis of needs and according to the other principles set out in the National HACC Program Guidelines. That is, HACC services should not generally be provided to a person who is already receiving a similar service from other government funded programs.

It is important, however, for service providers to recognise that specialist palliative care services provided by NSW Health provide clinical care, and can differ from the basic maintenance and support services offered under the HACC Program.

Similarity of service and each individual, including palliative care patients, should be assessed on an individual basis.

The HACC Program is also not an entitlement program. Thus even though a person may fall within the categories of eligibility there is no guarantee of receipt of HACC services. Service providers are required to assess and prioritise applicants in accordance with their relative need to ensure that resources are allocated to provide the most benefit to the greatest number of people.