



AUTHORISED LEAVE FROM AGED CARE HOMES

Any amount of time spent away from an aged care home by a resident is considered 'authorised leave', and specific rules apply.

The different time restrictions on authorised leave ensure:

- that there is protection of a resident's place in the aged care home with security of tenure during authorised leave.
- and
- that the home is not disadvantaged by the withdrawal of government subsidy during a resident's absence.

What Counts as Authorised Leave?

Authorised leave can be as little as 1 day, but to be classified as 'leave' the resident's absence must include at least 1 night. To spend a whole day away, for example on a bus trip, is not classified as leave.

Different Kinds of Leave

Hospital Leave

Residents of aged care homes can be granted unlimited hospital leave. However, the resident must have first actually moved into the home before going into hospital.

For the first continuous 30 days that the resident is in hospital, the Commonwealth government continues paying the aged care home the full usual rate of subsidy for him/her. After that period it continues to pay a subsidy at a lower rate, but the resident is not responsible for the difference in the sum that the home receives.

Social Leave (for any purpose other than hospitalisation)

Social Leave is limited to 52 days in any financial year, ie from July 1 to June 30.

The resident must currently be living in the aged care home before taking social leave. The period equates to 7 full weeks or 26 weekends, remembering that the first day of the resident's social leave is counted as Day 1, and the day of return is not counted.



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Pre-entry Leave

Pre-entry leave is restricted to 7 days, and the person must have been assessed as needing care if entering an aged care home for the first time.

The day that the person formally accepts an offered vacancy counts as Day 1 of a 7-day 'pre-entry leave' period, during which the person is able to make arrangements for the move. During this period, the home receives the government subsidy on the place the person will occupy, which enables the home to hold the place vacant for him/her.

These 7 days of Pre-entry Leave are subtracted from a resident's first year of 52 days Social Leave.

NB - The time allowed for the person to make up their mind to accept a place after notice of a vacancy, should previously have been negotiated with the home.

Pre-entry leave is also an authorised leave if a resident is moving from one aged care home to a different one.

Leave During Respite Care

There is no authorised leave of any kind for respite residents.



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