



## RESPITE CARE IN AGED CARE HOMES

Accredited aged care homes can provide short periods of respite care for people who need extra care away from their own home. This kind of respite care is often used when a carer needs a holiday or a break, or needs time to recover from an operation or illness. Older people who usually look after themselves in their own home can also use respite care if they need some extra support for a while.

### Assessment

People seeking respite care in an aged care home need to be assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT).

### How many days of respite care can I have?

People can have a total of 63 days of respite care in each financial year ie from 1 July to 30 June, but respite days cannot be carried over into the next financial year.

If someone needs additional respite care the ACAT can extend the number of days in emergency circumstances.

Eligible Department of Veterans' Affairs veterans and dependents may be approved for special entitlements.

### How much will it cost?

Aged care homes can charge respite residents a booking fee and the basic daily care fee. Respite residents cannot be charged an accommodation fee or income tested fees.

If the respite care is being provided in an extra service place, the facility may charge an additional amount for the higher level of accommodation, food and services provided.

### Cancellations

The booking fee is refundable if a person cannot use the booked period for medical reasons, or if the aged care home changes the arrangements.

If the respite care resident decides to leave the aged care home before the end of the booked respite period, all, or part of the fee for the unused part of the booked period may be retained from the booking fee.



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# Information Sheet



If a person wishes to cancel their booking before they move in, they must inform the home more than 7 days before their respite period is scheduled to begin, otherwise the home can keep all of the booking fee.

## Leave During Respite Care

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

*Source: Aged Care Principles; User Rights Principles*



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