

Low Care Facilities (formerly hostels)

Low Care Facilities (LCFs) provide government subsidised residential care for people whose support may include personal care (showering, dressing etc) but not include nursing care.

WHO RUNS LCFs?

- church and charitable organisations;
- ethnic organisations;
- state and local government;
- private operators.

ADMISSION TO LCFs

Assessment of eligibility and care levels needed must be done by the Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS) in your region. Contact may be established by yourself, a friend, family or through referral by a GP or hospital. For contact details of your local ACAS, contact *Seniors Information Victoria*.

WHAT IS THE COST?

An ingoing **accommodation bond** can be negotiated by the proprietor based on assets of the resident. There is no set formula for determining a bond, however you cannot be charged a bond that would leave you with less than \$33,000 in assets. A bond can be paid as a lump sum, a fortnightly or periodic payment, or a combination of lump sum and periodic payment. The bond is refunded on leaving the LCF, less a retention amount per month, for up to five years (the retention period). The current retention amount is up to \$273.50 per month. The balance of the capital must be returned within two months of the resident leaving the facility (or within 7 days if the resident is transferring to another facility).

DAILY CARE FEES

Full and part pensioners pay the basic daily care fee of \$30.77 per day (indexed). Note that pensioners who pay an accommodation bond of more than \$132,000 can be asked to pay a higher daily care fee. If you are a part pensioner, you may also be charged an income tested care fee of up to \$23.70 per day. The maximum amount would apply to a single person with a private income of \$37,835 per year or a couple with a private income of \$74,942 per year. A non-pensioner may pay a basic daily care fee of up to \$38.35 plus an income-tested care fee of up to \$53.96 per day.

STANDARDS OF CARE

Standards for care and buildings are set by the Commonwealth Government and assessed by the Aged Care Standards Agency.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Aged and Community Care Information on 1800 500 853 or National Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600.

* **Note:** The family home will not be deemed an asset if a spouse or dependent child is still living there or a carer (eligible for pension or benefit) has been living in the home for at least 2 years.