

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 \$35,500 in assets if you are a full pensioner and \$91,410.40 if you are a part- or non-pensioner. 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 \$292.00 per month. The balance of the capital must be returned within 14 days of the resident leaving the facility.

DAILY CARE FEES

All residents pay the basic daily care fee of up to \$32.95 per day (indexed), except non-pensioners who entered before 20 March 2008. These residents pay up to \$41.08 per day. If you are a part pensioner, you may also be charged an income tested care fee of up to \$25.35 per day. The maximum amount would apply to a single person with a private income of \$705.90 per fortnight or a couple, each with an income of \$687.90 per fortnight. A non-pensioner may pay an income-tested care fee of up to \$58.15 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

Department of Health and Aging Aged Care Information Line 1800 500 853

* **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.