

1.3

What in-home support is available to my young child and me?**What is Home And Community Care (HACC)?**

Your local Council has services that are called Home And Community Care (HACC) services and are available for people with a disability.

HACC services include:

Respite care

Any activity that provides a carer with a break from their caring role

Home care

Assistance in your home with light housework and shopping

Personal care

Assistance with personal hygiene eg showering, dressing

These services do incur a cost and is calculated depending on your income. To talk to someone regarding an assessment contact your local council and ask to speak to the Home and Community Care Assessment Team.

Refer to information sheet 4.7 of this kit 'How do I contact my local council?' on accessing council services.

How do I know if my child is eligible for services?

All funding has eligibility criteria. The new Disability Act 2006 was implemented in July 2007. The Act states that people who have a physical, sensory or neurological impairment, an acquired brain injury, intellectual disability or developmental delay may access disability services.

You can request a formal assessment from the Department of Human Services when your child turns 6. You can have your child assessed to become a registered client and therefore access the Department's services or they can refer you on to other community support.

Call the DHS Intake and Response on 1800 783 783 for more information.

You may also like to read information sheet 4.5 in this kit 'Is This The First Time You Have Tried To Access Services?' and 1.4 'Do you need some help finding recreation and respite options for your young child?'

What other options do I have for in-home support of my child?

The **Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS)** may be able to help you with the healthcare needs of your child. Phone 1300 657 265 and you will be put through to your nearest office.

There are also programs such as **Extended Families Australia** that match mature-aged people with a young person with a disability. They may, for example, come to visit and spend time with your child giving you extra support and time to do other things. For more information call 8311 4044.

Abercare Family Services distribute the **Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) Flexible Support Packages** in the northern and western suburbs. This funding can be used to purchase respite, aids and equipment, therapy, support for early childhood programs and other additional supports. Contact the Early Intervention Case Co-ordinator at Abercare Family Services on 9373 3800 to find out more.

There are also a number of private care services that will be able to provide in home support to you at a cost. Look under "attendant care" in the yellow pages.