



COVID-19 – CHANGES TO CHSP FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS

4/06/2020

The Department of Health (the Department) has made temporary changes to the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) flexibility provisions. To meet demand during the pandemic, CHSP providers can re-allocate 2019-20 and 2020-21 funding between their funded service types. During this period CHSP providers must:

- maintain and manage their client numbers and service delivery, and
- be able to return to their normal funding and service delivery allocations.

Can CHSP providers move funds between CHSP Sub-Programmes?

Yes. CHSP providers can move funding across all four CHSP Sub-Programmes to support key funded services. CHSP providers can re-allocate up to 100% of funding between their funded service types.

Can CHSP providers move funds between Aged Care Planning Regions?

CHSP providers may move funds between the Aged Care Planning Regions (ACPRs) in which they are funded to operate. At this stage, the flexibility is time-limited until 30 June 2021. CHSP providers should act with caution in applying this flexibility.

In doing so CHSP providers must:

- be able to return to their normal regional footprint
- not leave a service gap in their normal service delivery area. Resources can only be moved from a region with a clear drop in demand or need for the services (e.g. where Social Support Groups are not operating)

- first understand existing service delivery in any ACPR they intend to move funds to. They must ensure other providers operating in the region are not already expanding to meet local need. Speak with your Funding Arrangement Manager (FAM) and other providers in the area, and
- only move funding between service types they are funded to deliver.

CHSP providers should only use flexibility provisions to support short term or time limited care needs during the pandemic. The Department **will not vary** funding agreements to reflect the changed service mix.

Can CHSP providers move funds to services they are not funded for?

Generally, CHSP providers **cannot** move funding to deliver new service types.

The exceptions are funded providers of:

- Social Support Group
- Centre Based Respite
- Cottage Respite
- Flexible Respite, or
- Transport

These providers may deliver services normally associated with:

- Social Support Individual (Web/Telephone Contact)
- Domestic Assistance (Unaccompanied Shopping), or
- to support the delivery of meals.

CHSP providers must consider how many clients and outputs they can deliver within their CHSP funding agreement. Providers must direct new clients back to My Aged Care or other CHSP providers if demand exceeds their capacity.

Do the flexibility provisions apply to the CHSP- Emergency support for COVID-19 - adhoc and meals funding?

Flexibility provisions **do not apply** to the:

- emergency meals, or
- ad hoc grant funding to address COVID-19 pressures.

The [CHSP- Emergency support for COVID-19 grants](#) are funded through a separate grant agreement. Providers must spend those funds according to that agreement.

Generally, emergency meals and ad hoc grants funding:

- **can** be moved between ACPRs, but
- **cannot** be moved between service types.

The Department may consider requests to move ad hoc grants funding between service types. Emergency meals funding **cannot** be used for other service types.

Which CHSP Providers can purchase IT for social connection? What IT is covered?

CHSP providers funded to provide Social Support Individual or Social Support Group:

- can use the grant funds to purchase IT
- must purchase the IT to enable older people to connect with their family, carers and social groups

Providers can purchase the following types of IT:

- tablets
- smart devices, and
- internet subscriptions.

Providers can spend up to \$500 per person per year (or up to \$1,000 in exceptional circumstances). This aligns with CHSP arrangements for other aids, equipment and assistive technology.

How should CHSP providers report the outputs delivered under Flexibility Provisions?

CHSP providers must report all outputs delivered under the CHSP in Data Exchange (DEX), as per normal reporting procedures. This includes outputs delivered through the CHSP – Emergency Support for COVID-19 grants. When using flexibility provisions, report the actual services delivered.

Report any outputs delivered under the CHSP – Emergency Support for COVID-19 grants using a separate performance report and statutory declaration.

For more information please contact your Funding Arrangement Manager.

Is there a transition period for CHSP providers using flexibility provisions?

No. The CHSP flexibility provisions will be in place until 30 June 2021. All CHSP providers must return to their normal service delivery and geographic footprint by this date.

Where can CHSP service providers find more information?

The Department has published COVID-19 fact sheets for CHSP providers including information on:

- CHSP Emergency Funding
- CHSP Other Support and Program Initiatives

There is also a Fact Sheet available to CHSP clients to address concerns or questions.

[Webinars](#) are available on the Department's website for on-demand viewing.

Providers should also [subscribe](#) to the normal aged care sector email announcements and newsletters.