



Home Maintenance

An Information update for clients of our Home Assist and Commonwealth Home Support Home Maintenance and Home Modifications Programs

Program Update

We have had a busy start to 2024 with extreme weather again impacting many of our clients with heavy rains and extreme heat conditions affecting older members of the community in particular. In addition the ongoing health impact of covid 19 has continued on our staff, contractors and clients. We remind all clients to continue to be vigilant about keeping their homes and yard areas in a well maintained state to avoid unforeseen issues arising from weather events like storms as we are still in the time of year where these are often a feature. Our program can assist clients with a gutter clean, roof check and a yard tidy up to help manage these key areas of your home. The Brisbane City Council also has a handy be prepared for storms checklist

<https://forms.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community-safety/community-safety/disasters-emergencies/be-prepared/be-prepared-home-readiness-checklist>.

There is also increased issues with mosquitos currently and Brisbane City Council also provide some timely advice here

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/20190924%20-%20Mosquitoes%20in%20Brisbane%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Health and Safety

We continue to reinforce the need for our clients, staff and contractors to socially distance and monitor our health and the health of those around us to ensure we all stay healthy and well. We continue to receive ongoing updates from the Health Department in relation to Covid 19 which we share with our staff, contractors and clients and we continue to remain vigilant to ensure that we all remain healthy. Our staff and contractors will continue to contact clients before attending your home to check on your health before visiting. Please continue to advise them if you are unwell or have any health concerns as work can always be re scheduled

Changes to the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)

The Commonwealth Government is moving towards the introduction of a new Support at Home Program which from July 2025 will replace the current home care packages and short term restorative care program, however the Minister has announced that CHSP will continue until June 2027. We do not have details about our funding contract at this time but clients accessing our home maintenance and home modifications can be reassured that our services will now be continuing. The Department is conducting ongoing information sessions about how the new Support at Home program will operate at <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care/aged-care-reforms-and-reviews/reforming-in-home-aged-care>

SIRS – Series Incident Reporting Scheme – From December 2022 all providers of in home care services including CHSP services are required to operate an effective incident management system to identify, record, manage and resolve all incidents and to notify all reportable incidents to the Aged Care Quality Commission and the police where there are reasonable grounds. There are 8 types of reportable incidents. You can find out more at

[https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/consumers/serious-incident-response-scheme#:~:text=The%20Serious%20Incident%20Response%20Scheme%20\(SIRS\)%20is%20an%20initiative%20to,su bsidised%20aged%20care%20and%20services](https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/consumers/serious-incident-response-scheme#:~:text=The%20Serious%20Incident%20Response%20Scheme%20(SIRS)%20is%20an%20initiative%20to,su bsidised%20aged%20care%20and%20services). SIRS is an initiative to help prevent and reduce the risk and occurrence of incidents of abuse and neglect of older Australians receiving Commonwealth-subsidised aged care and services. Please continue to contact our office at any time if you have any concerns or complaints or feedback about our services.

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ACRO Home Maintenance Newsletter

Home Safety & Security Update

Did you know that all clients registered with our program have access to an annual security hardware subsidy? This is funding available up to \$80 per annum that can be spent on items which improve the safety and security of your home. This could include **installing a new lock, key safe or a new smoke alarm**. As you may be aware there have been changes to the smoke alarm legislation in Queensland. All new smoke alarms should be photoelectric and not more than 10 years old. If you think your smoke alarm was installed more than 10 years ago please ring our office for a new free smoke alarm to be installed.

Have you got our new number?

(07) 3856 6222

Give Anneliss a call and she can post you a free fridge magnet



It is important to check your surroundings and try to remove or reduce the risks. Here are simple things you can do and some ways we can assist you to remain safe at home

1. Ensure access paths are clean and dry to reduce risk of falls. If you need a high pressure Gurney to access paths safely contact our office.
2. Ensure you have good lighting to be able to see clearly where you are going and what you are doing. Our program can assist towards the cost of an electrician to ensure adequate lighting for your safety and security
3. Remove general trip hazards such as cords, loose floor mats and consider highlighting the edge of steps with non slip paint
4. Increase your safety in the bathroom through the installation of grabrails and improve access to your home with ramps and handrails. Our program can subsidise the cost of an Occupational Therapist to assess your home modification needs and we can offer a subsidy towards the cost of the labour for installation.

A handy resource is the Commonwealth Government Booklet *Don't Fall for it – A Guide to Preventing Falls for Older People*

