



ApplyWise

Your Guide to Aged Care Accommodation

*Prepared by ApplyWise – Aged Care and
NDIS Application Support*

Introduction

Finding the right aged care accommodation can be one of the most emotionally and mentally exhausting parts of the care journey. Families often feel overwhelmed by confusing processes, limited availability, waitlists, and the uncertainty of whether they're making the right decision.

At ApplyWise, we understand these challenges. Suitable options can be hard to find, and the pressure to make a fast decision can be intense. We're here to help ease that pressure by guiding you through each step, and by helping you find the best available options that suit your needs.

Types of Aged Care Accommodation

Residential Aged Care (Nursing Homes)

Provides 24/7 personal and medical care for older Australians who can no longer live independently. Includes meals, cleaning, personal care, and nursing support.

Respite Care

Short-term care in an aged care home to give carers a break or during recovery. Often funded by Home Care Packages or government subsidy.

Retirement Villages

Independent living in a supportive community environment. Often suited to more active seniors who don't need daily care.

Supported Residential Services (SRS)

Privately operated services for people needing low-level support, not subsidised by the government.

How to Choose the Right Option

- **Care needs:** Does the person need medical or personal care?
- **Location:** Proximity to family and friends is key.
- **Availability:** Places fill fast. It helps to have multiple options.
- **Budget:** Understand the costs involved and what is or isn't subsidised.
- **Cultural fit:** Language, food, and activities matter.

Understanding the Costs

Navigating aged care costs can be tricky. Here are some basics:

- **RAD (Refundable Accommodation Deposit):** A lump-sum payment that is refunded when you leave the home.
- **DAP (Daily Accommodation Payment):** An interest-style payment made daily if you don't pay the RAD in full.
- **Means Assessment:** Centrelink will assess your income and assets to determine your contribution.
- **Other fees:** Basic daily fee, means-tested care fee, and extras for services like Foxtel, hairdressing, etc.

The Placement Process Step-by-Step

1. **ACAT Assessment** – Apply for an aged care assessment via My Aged Care.
2. **Get Approval** – Once approved, you'll receive a support plan.
3. **Research Options** – Start looking for suitable homes.
4. **Apply to Homes** – Submit applications to multiple providers.
5. **Offers and Visits** – Visit homes and receive offers.
6. **Acceptance and Move-in** – Finalise costs and move in.

How ApplyWise Can Help

We take the stress out of this process by:

- Helping you understand your support plan
- Matching you with appropriate accommodation options
- Clarifying the costs involved
- Helping with paperwork and placement applications
- Following up with providers to check availability

We work as your guide and advocate so you can make informed, confident decisions.

Common Questions

Can I visit a facility before deciding?

Yes. In fact, we encourage you to do so. ApplyWise can help schedule and prepare you for these visits.


Is it okay to apply to more than one place? Absolutely. It's best to have several options due to high demand.

How long does placement take? It varies. Some people are placed quickly; others may wait weeks or months. We help speed up this process.

What to Do Next

- **Contact ApplyWise** to discuss your needs.
 - **Download and complete our Aged Care Intake Form** (available on our website).
 - **Book a consultation** to get started with your personalised plan.
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