

COTA HACC PRINCIPLES STATEMENT

Noting the discussion within COAG with respect to the future of the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, COTA Over 50s resolved its support for the following principles that should apply in the future development of community care:

1. High priority and proper resourcing should be given to illness prevention, health promotion, chronic disease management, and life enablement strategies.
2. There should be active pursuit of consumer directed care principles and options for their implementation.
3. There must be rapidly accessible and effective assessment mechanisms, that are nationally consistent, so that needs, entitlements and negotiation about how needs might be met happens promptly.
4. Access to community care ought to be an entitlement attaching to the individual, not to providers or geographic regions. This applies to both support and enablement options through HACC and to Community Packages(*)
5. While funding for older people and people with disabilities should be transparently separate, service provision to both may or may not be provided by the same provider.
6. Clear protocols should be established for HACC funding so that HACC funds are not used for packages of services that should be part of the Community Packages program(*) but are used for individual and community support and enablement initiatives.
7. All possible outcomes of the COAG process will still require interfaces between Federal, State and Local Government funded programs and services, and between programs for different but related population groups. Governments have traditionally handled these interfaces poorly from a consumer perspective and any outcome needs to improve substantially on this.

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(*) Refer to COTA Senate Aged Care Inquiry Submission November 2008