

Medicare Plus

An Aged Care Perspective

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VAHEC

- **Largest Peak Body in Victoria representing aged and community care providers in rural and metropolitan areas**
- **Over 300 organisations (Private and Public)**
- **24,000 residential aged care beds**
- **4000 CACPs**
- **Bush Nursing Hospitals/Centres**
- **Range of Community Care Programs**

Historical Issues

- Ageing in Western Society not valued
- Residential Aged Care has had a poor public image
- Aged Care not a priority amongst health professionals
- Seen as the Cinderella of the health system

Current Issues

- **Ageing of the Population**
- **More Community Care Options**
- **Increased acuity of residents with complex care needs**
- **Shortage of Doctors and Nurses**
- **An ageing workforce**

Future Concerns

- Increase in complexity of health care needs of residents.
- Limited access to good medical care
- Increased Community and Government expectations.

Medicare Plus Initiatives

- An opportunity to develop partnerships with Divisions, GP's and aged care.
- Improved access to medical care.
- Raising the professional profile of aged care.

Misconceptions about Residential Aged Care

- RN's do not have the time or skills to be involved .
- Accreditation requires medical & medication advisory committees and quality committees
- GP panels will be another monitoring body

Possible Functions of GP panels

- Improve access to GP's
- Improve medical care of residents including emergency care.
- Act as a resource to nursing staff.
- Encourage training and share information with GP's on ageing

Development of GP panels

- Formed in consultation with staff of aged care facilities.
- Recognition that aged care staff are committed to providing a high level of care
- Understanding that aged care providers support, but are not funded to be involved in these initiatives.
- The panels will support existing GP and aged care partnerships.

Conclusion

As an outcome of these initiatives:

- **Development of positive partnerships between aged care, GP's and the Divisions**
- **Access to medical care will improve**
- **There will be measurable positive outcomes for frail older people.**