



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

**CHARTER OF RIGHTS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR COMMUNITY CARE**

Aged Care Act 1997, Schedule 2 User Rights Principles

Rights

As a care recipient I have the following rights:

1 GENERAL

- a) to be treated and accepted as an individual, and to have my individual preferences respected
- b) to be treated with dignity, with my privacy respected
- c) to receive care that is respectful of me, my family and home
- d) to receive care without being obliged to feel grateful to those providing my care
- e) to full and effective use of all my human, legal and consumer rights, including the right to freedom of speech regarding my care
- f) to be treated without exploitation, abuse, discrimination, harassment or neglect

2 PARTICIPATION

- a) to be involved in identifying the community care most appropriate for my needs
- b) to choose the care and services that best meet my assessed needs, from the community care able to be provided and within the limits of the resources available
- c) to participate in making decisions that affect me
- d) to have my representative participate in decisions relating to my care if I do not have capacity

3 CARE AND SERVICES

- a) to receive reliable, coordinated, safe, quality care and services which are appropriate to my assessed needs
- b) to be given before, or within 14 days after I commence receiving care, a written plan of the care and services that I expect to receive
- c) to receive care and services as described in the plan that take account of my lifestyle, other care arrangements and cultural, linguistic and religious preferences
- d) to ongoing review of the care and services I receive (both periodic and in response to changes in my personal circumstances), and modification of the care and services as required

4 PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a) to privacy and confidentiality of my personal information
- b) to access my personal information

5 COMMUNICATION

- a) to be helped to understand any information I am given
- b) to be given a copy of the Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Community Care
- c) to be offered a written agreement that includes all agreed matters
- d) to choose a person to speak on my behalf for any purpose

6 COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

- a) to be given information on how to make comments and complaints about the care and services I receive
- b) to complain about the care and services I receive, without fear of losing the care or being disadvantaged in any other way
- c) to have complaints investigated fairly and confidentially, and to have appropriate steps taken to resolve issues of concern

7 FEES

- a) to have my fees determined in a way that is transparent, accessible and fair
- b) to receive invoices that are clear and in a format that is understandable
- c) to have my fees reviewed periodically and on request when there are changes to my financial circumstances
- d) not to be denied care and services because of my inability to pay a fee for reasons beyond my control

Responsibilities

As a care recipient I have the following responsibilities:

1 GENERAL

- a) to respect the rights of care workers to their human, legal and industrial rights including the right to work in a safe environment
- b) to treat care workers without exploitation, abuse, discrimination or harassment

2 CARE AND SERVICES

- a) to abide by the terms of the written agreement
- b) to acknowledge that my needs may change and to negotiate modifications of care and service when my care needs do change
- c) to accept responsibility for my own actions and choices even though some actions and choices may involve an element of risk

3 COMMUNICATION

- a) to give enough information to assist the approved provider to develop, deliver and review a care plan
- b) to tell the approved provider and their staff about any problems with the care and services

4 ACCESS

- a) to allow safe and reasonable access for care workers at the times specified in my care plan or otherwise by agreement
- b) to provide reasonable notice if I do not require a service

5 FEE

- a) to pay any fee as specified in the agreement or negotiate an alternative arrangement with the provider if any changes occur in my financial circumstances
- b) to provide enough information for the approved provider to determine an appropriate level of fee