



## COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931.

Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

*Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004*

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# Fact Sheet

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Last Updated April 2005

## Residential Care Daily Care Fees

The following information has been compiled to assist people in choosing a residential aged care facility. For further information please phone the CPSA InfoLine on (02) 9281 3588 or 1800 451 488 (regional) or refer to the organisations listed.

### What are daily care fees?

- Daily care fees are comprised of a basic daily care fee and a daily income tested fee. They pay for your care and are dependent upon your income at the time you enter the facility and the level of care you receive.
- Full pensioners, part pensioners and self-funded retirees pay different daily care fees.
- Daily income tested fees were introduced because of the ageing of Australia's population and the increased demand for aged care. The Government now requires residents of aged care facilities to contribute towards the cost of their care when they can afford to do so. This only applies to people who have entered residential aged care since 28 February 1998.

### What do I get for my daily care fees?

- Daily care fees contribute towards the cost of your care including meals and refreshments, cleaning, laundry, heating/cooling and social activities.
- The daily care fees also cover additional expenses such as nursing and personal care and certain medical and pharmaceutical services.

## How much will my basic daily care fee be\*?

- The maximum basic daily care fee for non-pensioners is \$34.76 per day.
- Pensioners and part-pensioners may pay up to \$27.86 per day.
- Veterans and war widow(er)s must hold a pensioner concession card in addition to their DVA card to be classified as a pensioner for the purpose of fees. This is because DVA pensions are not means tested.
- Australian ex-prisoners of war who are receiving high level care will have their basic daily care fee paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Those receiving low level care must pay the basic daily care fee themselves.
- People who pay an accommodation bond in excess of \$119 500 for low level care or extra service care\*\* may pay up to \$34.76 (non-pensioner rate).

## How much will my income tested care fee be\*?

- Full pensioners are not required to pay an income tested care fee.
- Part pensioners with yearly income of \$34 505 (single) or \$68 282 (couple) may be asked to pay up to \$21.52/day. Non-pensioners with yearly income of \$74 254 (single) or \$147 780 (couple) may be asked to pay up to \$48.82/day.
- Veterans and war widow(er)s must hold a pensioner concession card in addition to their DVA card because DVA pensions are not means tested.
- Australian ex-prisoners of war who are receiving high level care are exempt from paying the income tested care fee.

## Does every facility calculate daily care fees the same way?

- Yes. It will only change if you take up an Extra Service\*\* place or move to or from a remote location.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing** – Phone 1800 020 103 or visit the website [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)
- **Aged and Community Care Information Line** – Phone 1800 500 853 or visit the website [www.seniors.gov.au](http://www.seniors.gov.au)

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\* Fees quoted are from Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing as at 20 March 2005.

\*\* An Extra Service Place is when a facility offers residents a higher standard of accommodation, food and services at a higher charge. Approximately 5% of all places are extra service places.