



# Aged Care *Guide*



**VINCENT COURT**  
AGED CARE COMMUNITY

# Helping you understanding more about residential aged care and its costs

*We're here to guide and support you through your residential aged care journey.*

Fully accredited aged care communities, like Vincent Court, are designed to support senior Australians should they reach a stage when they can no longer live independently at home. For some, this may happen gradually over time, while for others it may happen suddenly due to an accident or illness. Often, the best way to receive consistent support is to live in a residential aged care community.

Our team cares for residents with low-care needs through to high-care needs, such as palliative care and advanced memory loss. We offer **permanent residential care** or **short-term respite care**.

The Government can contribute towards the cost of aged care. The level of funding assistance your loved one receives will depend on their income and assets.

In this Guide, we summarise the cost structure and benefits of residential aged care, as well as the steps involved to secure a position in an aged care community that's right for your loved one. Our Admissions Team is here to help and support you through this journey. Please call us with any questions.

## The 5 steps to placing your loved one in care

- **Aged Care Assessment.** To find out if your loved one is eligible for permanent or respite aged care, arrange an assessment by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT). You can book an appointment through My Aged Care (visit [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) or call 1800 200 422). Hospitals and doctors can also provide a referral.
- **Understanding the costs.** A simple guide to aged care fees is included in this Guide. To estimate the amount your loved one may be asked to pay towards their care, visit [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au), search for 'Fee Estimator' and complete the form. You can also seek advice from a Financial Planner.
- **Take a tour.** Prepare a shortlist of suitable aged care communities and tour them to compare.
- **Apply to your preferred aged care community.** Arrange a meeting with a Care Leader at your preferred community. To apply for a residential aged care position, you'll need to bring documents including a current ACAT, an income and assets form, and Power of Attorney instructions.
- **Resident Agreement.** Once your loved one has been offered a place in a community and wishes to accept it, a Resident Agreement will need to be signed before they move in.

*"I think what makes Vincent Court so special is the way we focus on helping each resident to continue doing the things they've always done. We just make sure they are safe, comfortable and supported. It's this approach that makes our community feel like home and our Carers feel like family."*

– **Alan Pretty**, Residential Service Manager, Vincent Court

# Respite care provides expert short-term relief for families

We understand that there are certain times when you might need some help to look after your loved one:

- Emergency care following an accident, injury or illness
- Recuperation and recovery following a hospital stay or incident
- If you are planning a holiday away
- If you need a break from your carer role
- As a safer option during a lockdown period where a person may have limited access to their essential care and lifestyle services

Respite is also a way for your loved one to experience living at Vincent Court before making a more permanent move.

## **An experienced on-site Care team**

Your loved one is welcome to join us for a week or longer. You can enjoy peace of mind knowing they will be expertly looked after and supported 24/7 by our dedicated team of Carers and on-site Nurses. We focus on helping our respite guests feel welcome, cared for and comfortable by understanding their specific needs and developing a personalised care and support plan.

Each respite guest enjoys the privacy of their own light-filled room complete with ensuite. There's plenty of space for treasured belongings, and family and friends are encouraged to visit whenever they like.

Our respite residents also enjoy:

- Freshly prepared home style meals (including morning and afternoon tea), as well as all-day access to snacks and drinks.
- Daily housekeeping, laundry and room service as well as access to our full activity schedule and planned outings.

## **Funding options**

At Vincent Court, there are two ways you can access short-term care:

- A Government-subsidised stay, where guests require a current ACAT assessment.
- A privately funded stay, where guests can receive immediate care with no ACAT assessment.
- Guests can also begin their stay as privately funded and then transition to Government subsidised for the remainder of their stay, once an ACAT assessment is in place.

Guests can access up to 63 days of subsidised respite care in a financial year, with the possibility of extending this by 21 days at a time (subject to ACAT approval).





# The costs of residential aged care

*At Vincent Court, we provide the highest possible quality of care to people with an assessed need, often regardless of their financial circumstances.*

## **Standard fees and charges**

Our community operates under the Aged Care Act which regulates the costs of living in residential aged care. The cost structure at Vincent Court is simple, transparent and consistent with the fees and charges of all other aged care communities in Australia.

## **Government subsidies**

The Government provides assistance to aged care residents who cannot afford to pay for their own care. The exact amount of support your loved one may be eligible for will be based on their income and assets as determined by Services Australia.

## **Support for Veterans and War Widow(er)s**

If your loved one is a Veteran or war widow(er), they are entitled to receive the same residential aged care service as all Australians. Contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs for additional information and support.

## **No hidden costs**

Unlike many other forms of senior housing, residential aged care has no hidden costs or exit fees when a resident leaves. Apart from the costs outlined on the following page, residents are only required to pay for their personal items and expenses such as medication, medical and allied health appointments, clothing, personal care items and hairdressing.

## **Short-term respite care**

Respite care is a way of receiving residential aged care for a short time. It can provide a much-needed break for families or partners who are caring for a loved one at home, especially at holiday times.

Respite care can also provide a loved one with the additional care they need while recovering from an injury or illness. Available in private suites, including in the secure memory support house, respite guests can access up to 63 days of subsidised respite care in a financial year, subject to a current ACAT approval.

*"Every older Australian deserves to be cared for as an individual. Our care culture centres on kindness and helping each resident to live their best, most joyful life every day - whatever that means to them."*

– **Kylie Radburn**, Apollo Care Chief Governance Officer

# Accommodation costs

*Residents contribute towards their accommodation and daily care through a schedule of accommodation and care payments outlined below.*

A resident's aged care suite is secured through an accommodation payment that is fully refundable and Government guaranteed. There are 4 payment options to secure a room:

Accommodation payment	Examples (at 01.04.24)
<b>Option 1: Fully refundable accommodation deposit (RAD)</b>  This is a once-off lump sum payment that is refunded in full when the resident leaves. There are no exit fees deducted from this deposit. Vincent Court has a range of room types that range from a \$320,000 to \$450,000.	<b>All upfront</b>  \$320,000 deposit (RAD)
<b>Option 2: Daily accommodation payment (DAP)</b>  You can choose not to pay an upfront RAD and pay an interest charge each month instead. This fee is calculated daily based on the amount of the unpaid RAD. The interest rate used to calculate a Daily Accommodation Payment is called the Maximum Permissible Interest Rate (MPIR). This is set by the Government and reviewed quarterly. These payments are not refundable.	<b><u>OR</u> A daily payment</b> <i>(Based on \$320,000 RAD)</i>  \$73.12 / day (DAP)  MPIR 8.34 %
<b>Option 3: A combination of RAD and DAP</b>  Residents can choose to pay a combination of a part RAD and part DAP, for example, a deposit of \$200,000 (RAD) and a daily payment on the unpaid amount of \$120,000 (DAP). Only the RAD lump sum deposit is refundable when the resident leaves.	<b><u>OR</u> A combination</b> <i>(Based on \$320,000 RAD)</i>  <b>Deposit \$200,000 (RAD)</b>  <b>Plus \$27.42 / day (DAP)</b>

## Option 4: Government supplement

The Government may provide assistance to cover the cost of your accommodation payment based on an income and assets assessment that will determine if you qualify for full Government support, or will be required to contribute towards your accommodation in one of 3 options:

- A refundable accommodation contribution (similar to a RAD but capped at the lump sum equivalent of Government supplement rates)
- A daily accommodation contribution (similar to a DAP but capped at Government supplement rates)
- A combination of a RAC and DAC of your choosing

# Care and support costs

*Residents contribute towards the costs of the nursing care, daily support, meals and housekeeping they receive through daily care fees.*

Set Daily Care Fees	Costs (at 20/03/24)
<b>A basic daily care fee</b>  This fee is paid by all residents to cover living expenses such as meals, laundry, personal and nursing care and electricity. This fee is set by the Government and is standard in every Australian aged care facility. It is currently set at 85% of the pension and is adjusted each March and September in line with changes to the Age Pension.	\$61.96 / day
<b>A means-tested daily care fee (MTCF)</b>  This is an additional contribution towards the cost of a resident's daily care. The amount of this fee is determined by a resident's income and assets assessment. It is reviewed quarterly and may vary over time if a resident's income, assets or cost of care change.  The annual cap that applies to the MTCF:  The lifetime cap that applies to the MTCF:	Determined by the Government Services Australia  \$33,309.29 \$79,942.44

## Next steps

- You can estimate the amount your loved one may be asked to pay towards their care by going to [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au), searching for 'fee estimator' and completing the form.
- Some families also seek advice from a Financial Planner.

*"We cannot praise the Care team at Vincent Court enough for their warmth, kindness and compassion that flows throughout the entire community. Everyone here has been so caring to my husband and to all the residents, which is always lovely to see. They are all very special people."*

– **Maureen**, Wife of a Vincent Court resident

# Supporting residents to live their way with grace and dignity

*You can enjoy peace of mind knowing your loved one will be expertly looked after and supported in our welcoming community that has been designed to feel like home.*

Vincent Court is divided into seven households to offer a more personal and home-like living experience. Each household shares a kitchenette, lounge and dining room. Each resident enjoys the privacy of their own suite complete with ensuite. There's plenty of room for treasured and familiar belongings, and family and friends are encouraged to visit.

Our flexible approach to home-made meals means residents can choose when and where they eat, and our beautiful outdoor courtyards offer the simple pleasures of a backyard, with chooks, veggie patches and flower beds. There are also many shared spaces where residents can come together to share a meal or a chat, as well as enjoying sitting outside in our gardens.

We focus on helping residents feel welcome, cared for and comfortable by understanding their specific needs and developing a personalised care and support plan.

## Daily care and lifestyle support

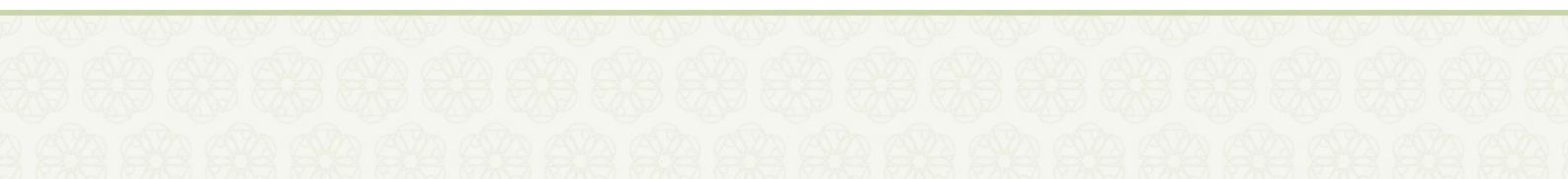
- Nursing care – a registered nurse is on-site 24 hours a day.
- Assistance with daily living activities such as bathing, showering, dressing and mobility along with medication.
- Freshly made, dietician-approved meals (including morning and afternoon tea), as well as all-day access to fruit, sandwiches and snacks. Dietary requirements and cultural needs are catered for.
- A range of activities and outings that provide companionship and connection to the community. Residents can choose to be as involved as they like.
- Daily housekeeping, laundry and room service.

## Specialist care

- **Dementia Care:** Residents with dementia live in our standard aged care suites and those needing emotional care live in our secure memory support unit. Care is person centred and delivered with respect and kindness.
- **High Care:** Vincent Court delivers high care, supported by a registered nurse on-site 24 hours a day. This includes palliative care and recovery from injury or illness.

## On-site facilities

- A large activities room, complete with a kitchen, piano and billiards table.
- A hairdressing salon, coffee shop and men's workshop.
- Close ties to the Macleay Valley Catholic Parish. Regular services are held in our on-site chapel and private pastoral visits are available.



## We're here to guide and support you

We know that navigating the aged care system can be a little challenging, especially when needing care in a hurry. That's where our team can help. We can guide you through each step of the aged care process, from how to apply for an aged care assessment through to creating a packing list.

Talk to our admissions team on **(02) 6562 6062** or email us at **[info@vincentcourt.org.au](mailto:info@vincentcourt.org.au)**.

To learn more about Vincent Court, visit **[www.vincentcourt.org.au](http://www.vincentcourt.org.au)** and follow us on Facebook.

*"I'm well and truly looked after here by the best group of Carers, and there's always someone to share a yarn and a laugh with. I feel very comfortable in such a homely place and I love that I can have input into the lifestyle program."*

– **Joan**, Resident in Azalea Household

