

THE AGED CARE ACT 1997

The Australian Government is responsible for setting aged care policy in Australia.

To raise the standard of care in Aged Care homes and hostels the government brought in changes to the Aged Care Act in 1997 that requires aged care homes (nursing homes and hostels) to become accredited providers of residential aged care services.

To obtain accreditation the homes must meet the standards for quality that are set in the Aged Care Act 1997.

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AGED CARE STANDARDS

The Standards and Guidelines for Residential Aged Care Services were developed to assist service providers to comply with their obligations under the Aged Care Act 1997.

The Standards reflect the quality of management and services expected of an Aged Care home.

Residential Aged Care homes are assessed against the Aged Care Standards to determine their suitability for accreditation by the Australian Government's Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency.

The Standards provide a structured approach to the management of quality. They give clear statements of expected performance and provide criteria to evaluate how well a service is performing and to identify gaps or opportunities for improvement.

Homes are assessed against four Accreditation Standards:

Standard 1 – management systems, staffing and organisational development.

Standard 2 – health and personal care.

Standard 3 – resident lifestyle.

Standard 4 – physical environment.

The standards examine the overall quality of services provided and, in particular, the extent to which an individual resident's needs are met.

Empowering older Victorians

Elder Rights Advocacy is the registered business name of Residential Care Rights Inc. (ABN 63 367 539 827) which is part of the National Aged Care Advocacy Program - an Australian Government Initiative.

Note, the information in this fact sheet is general information about the law in Victoria— it is not legal advice.

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