

# AT HOME CARE GRANTS DURING COVID-19



Youngcare recognises that people with high care needs, their families, and their support workers are among the people who are the most vulnerable as a result of the COVID-19 virus. In this time of uncertainty, Youngcare's At Home Care Grant (AHCG) is an important program, so that people with high care needs can remain at home, instead of entering inappropriate housing, which could negatively impact their health.

In an ever-changing environment, it's important that the grants remain flexible to reflect the needs of applicants. However, the criteria that the panel uses to determine recipients remains the same:

1. Is the applicant at risk of entering inappropriate housing?
2. Will the grant keep the applicant at home?
3. Is the funding that the applicant receives their last resort (i.e. Can they get the funding through the NDIS, or other government programs?)?
4. Will the grant improve the applicant's quality of life?

When assessing the last question, in particular, it is important to consider if the grant will provide a long term benefit to the applicant. The current environment, which is now chaotic and volatile, will eventually stabilise. When the panel determine the grant recipients, they will not only consider the benefits to the applicant during this unprecedented time, but also how the grant will impact the applicant in the long term, well beyond the life of the virus. In this regard, it is important to consider that the AHCGs are not designed to act as emergency measure, or act as a solution to a crisis.

The NDIA has instituted a number of measures to help its participants in the environment created by the COVID-19 virus. We encourage participants and their advocates to explore these avenues before applying for an AHCG. The NDIA will fund essential equipment and services as a matter of urgency. The Agency has also adjusted their criteria so participants can gain easier access to assistive technology (AT) during the pandemic. **You can find further information here:** <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/home-equipment-and-supports/assistive-technology-explained>

Youngcare also understands that at this time Allied Health reports and Quotes may be more difficult to obtain. If you are having trouble with these, please contact us to discuss options.

If you would like more information about the AHCGs or assistance with the application process, please do not hesitate contact the Youngcare Connect Information Line:

**Contact Youngcare Connect on  1800 844 727 or  [youngcareconnect@youngcare.com.au](mailto:youngcareconnect@youngcare.com.au)**