



Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program evaluation

Information bulletin

CONTEXT

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to undertake an independent evaluation of the Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program (HACDSP).

The HACDSP (previously the Acute to Residential Care Transition Support trial) is funded through the \$1.2 billion Strengthening Medicare package, announced in the 2024–25 federal Budget. The goal of the HACDSP is to support older people living with dementia to optimise their wellbeing during their hospital stay and to successfully transition from hospital into an aged care setting that meets their ongoing care needs. The HACDSP is designed to be agile, allowing it to adapt to the varying needs of local service delivery environments.

The HACDSP team includes Dementia Consultants, Family Liaison Officers, and Dementia Support Coaches. HammondCare is the funding recipient, with the service being led by Dementia Support Australia (DSA). The program started at the end of 2024. The program is being rolled out in Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Victoria.

A person is eligible for the HACDSP if they meet the following criteria:

- they have dementia (diagnosed with dementia or suspected dementia/diagnosis not confirmed, or have a history of progressive cognitive decline)
- they are aged 65 and over, or aged 50 and over and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person, or otherwise eligible to receive federal government-funded aged care services
- they are an inpatient in an acute/sub-acute public hospital setting in an agreed site
- they have undergone an aged care needs assessment and have been approved as eligible to receive federal government-funded aged care services
- there is current valid consent to participate in the HACDSP, including consent to access information for participation in the HACDSP.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The evaluation aims to assess the implementation and impact of HACDSP. The findings will inform future policy design and funding recommendations that support older hospital patients with dementia in transitioning to mainstream aged care services.

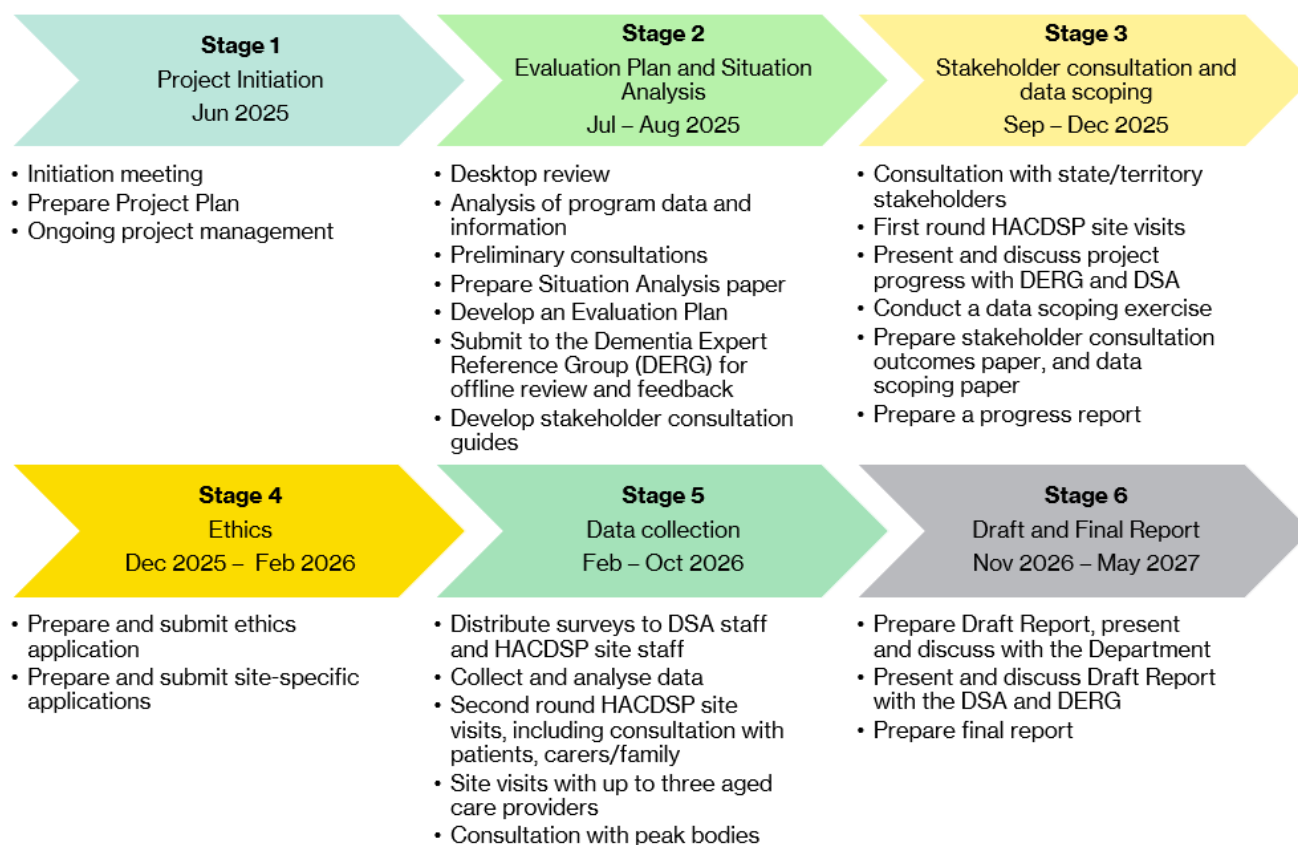
PROJECT METHOD AND TIMING

The project to evaluate HACDSP will occur over 24 months. HMA will take a staged approach to the project, including a situation analysis to inform the development of an evaluation plan, and in-depth stakeholder consultation with HACDSP participants and end-users (patients, carers, and family).

Stakeholder consultation will occur in project Stages 3 and 5:

- Stage 3: consultation with state and territory stakeholders, and HACDSP sites (Sep–Nov 2025)
- Stage 5: survey of DSA and HACDSP site staff (Mar–Apr 2026), site visits with HACDSP sites (including patients' carers and families and aged care providers (May–Aug 2026), and consultation with peak bodies (Aug–Sep 2026))

Figure 1 presents an overview of the project to evaluate HACDSP.

Figure 1: Project approach

CONTACT INFORMATION

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