

# Tips for Nurses: ACAT Assessment



**What it is:** An Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessment is used to make a recommendation for the type and level of care that will best meet the needs of older Australians with complex needs.

**Why it matters:** People in need of palliative care often have complex needs. An ACAT assessment (also known as an ACAT) determines if an older person can access Government-funded services:

- home care package
- residential aged care
- transition care
- respite care
- short-term restorative care.

**What I need to know:** My Aged Care Contact Centre provides information and entry to ACAT under the Aged Care Assessment Program (ACAP) and to Regional Assessment Services (RAS).

ACATs assess clients with more complex needs for access to the most suitable types of care and support.

Each ACAT is multidisciplinary. The team often includes a doctor, nurse, social worker, and occupational therapist.

A RAS assessment is for clients who need low-level support to continue to live at home.

Clients are registered and screened over the phone using a nationally consistent screening and assessment form to collect information to support ACAT and RAS assessments.

An older person or their representative can register for an assessment or they can be referred by a health professional. Assessment can take place at the older person's home, or in a hospital. There is a process in place for review of the assessment outcome if requested.

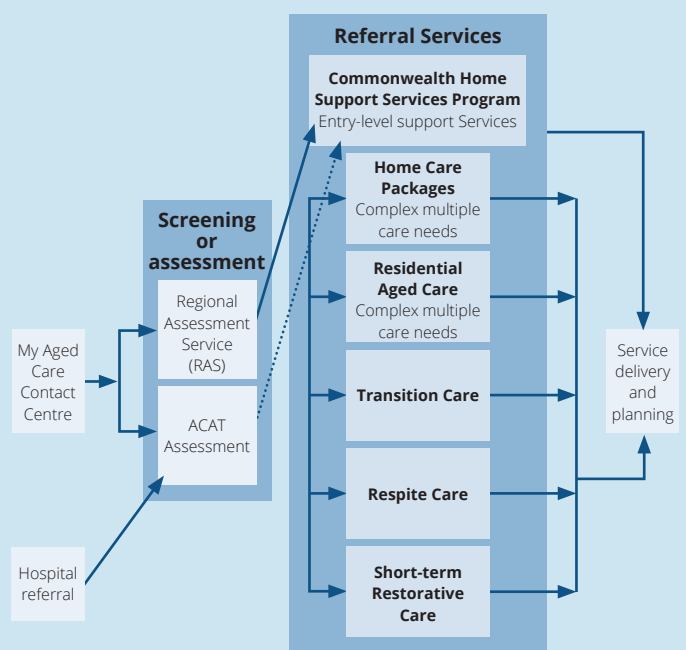
## Actions

If you, clients, or families have any questions about ACAT, refer to your supervisor and/or the My Aged Care Contact Centre.

**Anyone** with consent can register an older person with the My Aged Care Contact Centre for screening. They can also be referred from a hospital, or by a GP or other health professional with patient consent.

## Tools

The diagram below provides an overview of needs assessment and referral processes for older Australians.



Name:

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## My reflections:

How many ACAT assessments of my clients or residents have I read?

In my organisation where are ACATs filed?

## My notes:

See related palliAGED Practice  
Tip Sheets:  
Advance Care Planning  
Frailty  
Palliative Care

References used to develop this sheet are available at  
[www.palliaged.com.au](http://www.palliaged.com.au)