

The OCAV is pleased to comment on the AACQA Draft Cost Recovery Implementation Statement.

About the Old Colonists' Association of Victoria

The Old Colonists' Association of Victoria (OCAV) is a leading not-for-profit retirement village provider offering a continuum of care from independent living, assisted living and aged care in Victoria. Our four villages in Berwick, Euroa, North Fitzroy and St Helena are home to 500 older Victorians in need.

The OCAV was established in 1869 by Victorian founding fathers including George Selth Coppin, a Member of Parliament and philanthropist. The association's first village was located at Rushall Park, North Fitzroy after the Government of Victoria gifted an acreage of land.

The OCAV recently committed to become a dementia-friendly residential community as part of its *Vision 2020*.

Our vision

To be the benchmark provider of affordable, independent community living for elderly Victorians.

Our mission

To advocate and provide affordable, safe and dignified independent homes for older Victorians within a village environment and to offer appropriate and practicable extended care when it is required.

Our values

Safe, Responsible, Dignified, Affordable, Open, Improving

Our funding model

We support capital investment in affordable housing through contributions from those with financial resources and at the same time provide safe and dignified housing for those with very limited or no financial means.

Background

The decision to introduce cost recovery for unannounced site visits delivers on the Australian Government's announcement in the 2015-16 Budget that residential aged care services would be required to pay the full cost of accreditation services, including one unannounced site visit per year.

The Quality Agency currently recovers the regulatory cost of assessment and determination of applications by approved providers for accreditation or re-accreditation of their residential aged care service. However, cost recovery does not currently apply to unannounced visits.

Our viewpoint

We understand that the decision to introduce cost recovery for unannounced site visits is budget driven. We do not find this acceptable:

- Now is not the time to place additional cost burden on providers which do not have the capacity to absorb further financial burdens
- Given the multiple reviews and activities around compliance and accreditation, and the potential for adjustments to this service focused on its effectiveness, it would not be appropriate to proceed with cost recovery at this point
- Insufficient consultation regarding the development of the new cost recovery model.

We defer to LASA and its submission on other key points.