

Open Place health funding guidelines

This document outlines guidelines in relation to the funding you may choose to access during the 2024-25 financial year (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025).

Please note, the funding provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to support the needs of Forgotten Australians is limited. Open Place currently has over 4,000 registered Forgotten Australians able to access its suite of services, including funding. Health funding is not allocated based on funding per person. It is a block of funding that we apply guidelines to, to share the funding for those in need as equitably as possible.

In the 2023 - 2024 financial year, based on your needs you may be able to access up to:

- **\$1,250 for Health**
- **\$250 for Medical transport and accommodation (regional and rural service users only).**

If required, you may also be able to access \$1,000 (for dental treatments (eligibility criteria apply). Please contact the Health funding team for eligibility criteria information.

Before you access a service, please contact Open Place to confirm that your funding request is approved. Payments will not be made for services that have not been pre-approved.

Funding Type	Health
Who may access	Forgotten Australians
Maximum limit in financial year	\$1,250
Eligible expenses	<p>Medicare out-of-pocket expenses for GP visits and tests not covered by Medicare (for example, an MRI scan), as well as other areas that require Medicare gap assistance (for example, out-of-pocket expenses for medical specialist consultations and medical procedures).</p> <p>Please note: Private health insurance excess fees for hospital /day procedures, and private hospital Emergency Department fees are not covered.</p> <p>Optical expenses. All prescription glasses. \$600 limit.</p> <p>Hearing aids, mobility aids and equipment expenses. Open Place will continue to seek other available subsidies and assistance, e.g. SWEP or the Victorian Hearing Aid Bank as a priority prior to funding from brokerage.</p> <p>Allied health expenses for dietician, podiatry, physiotherapy, osteopathy, myotherapy and chiropractic treatment. Efforts will be made to ensure that a primary health care plan is initiated by a GP, which provides five free sessions per year.</p> <p>Homecare expenses. Meals on wheels, home cleaning, District nursing.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical expenses for <u>medical</u> prescriptions (only) that are provided by a GP. Assistance is only available by <u>prior arrangement</u> with a pharmacy who can accept payment by direct deposit.</p> <p>Please note: Reimbursements will not be provided for pharmaceutical expenses except when dispensed via a hospital stay/visit.</p> <p>Dental expenses from a private dental clinic. As treatments can involve multiple visits <u>a treatment plan will need to be provided to Open Place after the initial consult for funding approval prior to the first appointment.</u> Alternatively, Open Place will make every effort to link Forgotten Australians to local community dental services and arrange for them to be placed on a priority list.</p>

Conditions	<p>Health funding can go towards any number of the eligible expenses listed above. Reimbursements will only be made for amounts over \$20. You may submit multiple receipts that add up to \$20, <u>except</u> for pharmaceutical expenses.</p> <p>Health funding is not transferable – i.e. a person’s unused counselling sessions or Health funds cannot be transferred to another Forgotten Australian or family member.</p>
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Funding Type	Dental
Who may access	Forgotten Australians
Limit	\$1,000
Eligible expenses	Dental expenses from a private dental clinic that exceed the funds you have available for Health expenses (i.e. \$1,250/financial year).
Conditions	<p>Available to Forgotten Australians who have received less than \$5,000 dental funding through Open Place since January 2010.</p> <p>This additional \$1,000 is for dental treatment only.</p> <p>If eligible, this \$1,000 can be combined with the 2023/24 health funding of \$1,250</p>

Funding Type	Medical Accommodation and Transport
Who may access	Forgotten Australians and/or carers supporting them
Limit each financial year	\$250
Eligible expenses	<p>Up to \$250 is available to Forgotten Australians who live in regional and rural areas (or their partner/family member or carer if they are supporting the service user during treatment) who are required to attend medical appointments, including hospital visits or to see a specialist, in Melbourne metropolitan area or their nearest regional centre.</p> <p>In the first instance, the Coordinated Support team will explore government funding options such as the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) which is designed to help Victorians who must travel a long way for specialist medical treatment by subsidising their travel and accommodation costs.</p>
Conditions	<p>Funding is for people who live in regional and rural Victoria.</p> <p>Funding must be discussed with and <u>approved</u> by Open Place before the first appointment with the health provider is attended. Open Place will be unable to reimburse Forgotten Australians if there has been no prior approval.</p> <p>A copy of the appointment documentation will be required prior to approving requests for medical transport or accommodation funding.</p> <p>Invoices and/or receipts will be required to process any reimbursements for medical transport and accommodation expenses.</p> <p>Once a reservation for accommodation has been paid, changes cannot be made to the booking.</p>

Items no longer covered under health brokerage:

White goods	Kitchen ware / Appliances
Gym equipment / memberships	Mattresses / Bedding
Car repairs	Cleaning equipment (vacuums etc)

Find and Connect:

If your time in ‘care’ was less than 6 months in Victoria, or took place interstate, you may access up to \$1,000 health brokerage (lifetime total) in certain circumstances. Please contact Open Place if you are unsure whether this condition applies to you.