

# Attendant care

Post 1 July 2014

## About attendant care

Attendant Care is a benefit available through the Motor Accident (Compensation) ("MAC") scheme in certain circumstances where you may require assistance with essential personal care and household tasks that you are unable to perform because of your injuries.

Personal services may include reasonable

- assistance for you to move around and take care of basic personal needs such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, grooming, fitting and use of aids, appliances, hearing and communication devices
- support to implement a therapy program under the guidance and supervision of a health professional

Household services may include reasonable:

- cooking, cleaning, laundry and similar tasks involved in the everyday operation and maintenance of a household
- routine home and garden maintenance for the purposes of upkeep, that you would have usually undertaken
- home and garden maintenance to ensure safe and easy access.

## What is not covered?

Attendant Care benefits are not generally available for:

- an injury, condition or circumstance that existed before a motor vehicle accident or that is not as a result of the motor vehicle accident
- services for other members of your family or household
- travel expenses for you, your family or your personal care workers, except to and from approved medical or rehabilitation services.

Where you had a pre-existing injury or condition that was exacerbated in a motor accident, benefits may be provided for the additional services required as a result of the motor vehicle accident.

Attendant care benefits are not available for any period of time a person is in hospital or a supported accommodation facility. Benefits are only available for services provided within Australia.

## Eligibility for Attendant Care benefits

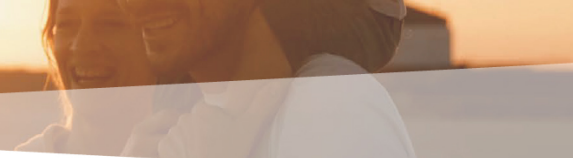
Benefits are payable if you are assessed as requiring Attendant Care services as a result of the injury sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Your eligibility for Attendant Care benefits will be determined through an assessment that we will arrange with an occupational therapist, who will assess your necessary and needs.

The assessment will take into account your abilities and care needs, and what normal tasks it is reasonable to expect other co-residents of the household to perform. To conduct the assessment, an assessor would normally visit you in hospital and/or at home to look at the personal and household services you may need.

The assessment of needs will be reviewed periodically, especially where your life circumstances change.

Depending on the assessment of your care needs:

- *Short Term Attendant Care* benefits may be available for as long as you are assessed as needing them, up to a period of one year after the motor vehicle accident
- *Long Term Attendant Care* benefits may be available for as long as you are assessed as needing them, if you sustain an injury which meets certain criteria under the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Regulations ('the MAC



Regulations') as a result of your motor vehicle accident, and your injury is considered to be permanent and stable. You will be advised if you meet this eligibility criteria.

- *Interim Attendant Care* benefits may be payable for a period of up to three years, where your injury has not stabilised sufficiently to assess whether you will require Long Term Attendant Care.

## How much Attendant Care is available?

Benefits will be provided in accordance with the assessment of your necessary and reasonable needs, with the aim of supporting you to maximise your independence within the community and facilitate your recovery.

Services must be provided by an approved provider under the MAC Regulations. A list of approved providers can be supplied to you if required. Payment for these services will be paid directly to the approved provider.

In certain circumstances, approval may be given for services to be provided by someone other than an approved provider. In this case, the amount approved maybe paid into your bank account so you can pay for these services directly.

The hourly rate payable for Attendant Care benefits is prescribed in the MAC Regulations. The hourly rate changes annually, please contact TIO to discuss this entitlement and the current hourly rate available.

## Taxation

If you do not use the benefit paid to you for Attendant Care services as intended, any money paid to you may be treated as assessable income by the Australian Tax Office (ATO). If you employ people directly to provide Attendant Care services, rather than through an approved provider, you may be required to comply with employment laws. You may also be required to advise the ATO. If you are unsure if this applies to your situation we recommend that you seek professional advice.

## Contact

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