

Attendant care

Pre 1 July 2014

About attendant care

Attendant Care is a benefit available through the Motor Accidents (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..

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.

Eligibility for Attendant Care benefits

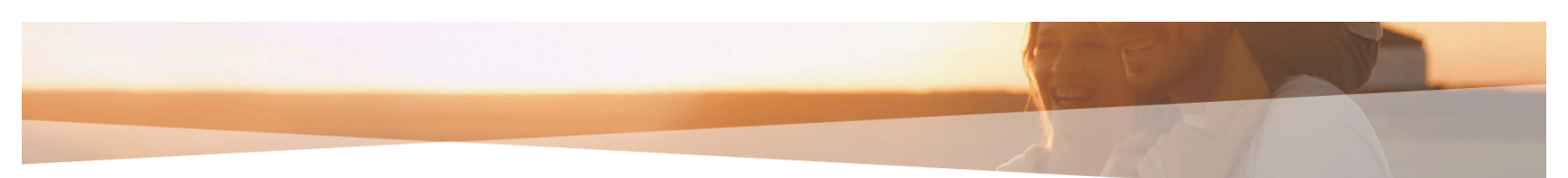
Benefits are payable if you are assessed as requiring Attendant Care services as a result of the injury sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Your eligibility for Attendant Care benefits will be determined through an assessment that we will arrange with an occupational therapist, who will assess your necessary and reasonable 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 a period of up to one year after the motor vehicle accident. This may be extended, on the advice of a medical practitioner, to a total period of up to two years.
- *Long Term Attendant Care* benefits may be available for as long as you are assessed as needing them, if you are seriously injured with a whole person permanent impairment of 60% or more.



How many hours of care are available?

Depending on the assessment of what necessary and reasonable care you require, up to a maximum of 32 hours of Attendant Care per week is available, less the number of hours which you receive nursing care each week.

Benefits are only payable where TIO consider the standard of service being provided is appropriate.

TIO can pay the amount approved for Attendant Care services into your bank account so you can arrange and pay for these services directly.

In special circumstances TIO may make payments for Attendant Care services to another person at your request.

The hourly rate payable for Attendant Care benefits is prescribed in the Motor Accidents (Compensation) 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 a registered 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

Phone: 1300 493 506

Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

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