COMMONWEALTH AGED CARE REFORMS – APRIL 2015

NSW Health has been successful in its selection as one of 13 agencies across Australia to operate Regional Assessment Services (RAS) for the Aged Care Gateway Programme. NSW Health will be one of a number of RAS organisations providing services in NSW, however NSW Health will provide the services across all NSW regions. From 1 July 2015, RAS will be responsible for conducting face-to-face assessments of older people seeking entry-level support at home, provided under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). The Ministry of Health (MoH) is working with LHDs to ensure RAS will be operationally and workforce ready from 1 July 2015.

Key Stakeholder Meeting Updates
- 15 April – RAS Establishment Briefing
- 23 April – RAS Familiarisation Session
- 30 April – My Aged Care Gateway Consultation Forum

Commonwealth Aged Care Updates
- Tender outcome for Regional Assessment Service announced 2 April in a [media release](https://www.dss.gov.au) by the Hon Mitch Fifield
- My Aged Care demonstration site in VIC operational
- ACAT Orientation Training late May/early June
- New Fact Sheets published: Establishment of the My Aged Care Regional Assessment Service; What the Introduction of Regional Assessment Services means for Providers; and My Aged Care Regional Assessment Service for Consumers
- RAS training: Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) will be organising pre-1 July training for all NSW Health RAS. MoH is liaising with LHDs and negotiating with DSS for NSW Health training for late June. Offline access to the NSAF – a new offline capability is being developed for use by assessors where there is no network coverage
- More information available at: [Department of Social Services](https://www.dss.gov.au)

NSW Health Highlights
- MoH attended a RAS Establishment Briefing in Canberra 15 April. DSS provided information on workforce training, RAS system overview and clarified management and reporting requirements
- MoH and a number of LHD representatives attended a RAS My Aged Care Assessor Portal Familiarisation day in Canberra 23 April
- Information package provided to LHD CEs in relation to RAS implementation
- Technical information provided to LHD CIOs to help inform procurement of devices for new RAS staff
- Commencement of work on key RAS deliverables including: Establishment Plan, Training Plan and Standard Operational Procedures
- MoH working with LHDs to re-design referral pathways to access CHSP services

Links and Resources
New resources available on the Aged Care webpage:
- April Monthly update published
- DSS fact sheets added

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