



Personal care and home care

Search for state specific personal care and home care services by using the Referral Pathways link to the right.

Personal care

There are a number of types of services available to assist with the personal care of a person with MND. These services may be private or may be fully or partially funded by the State and/or Australian governments. Personal care assistants can provide assistance with showering, toileting, feeding, respite care and housework. Personal care services vary from state to state.

Nursing services

Registered community nurses are accessed from the local hospital home nursing service or community health centre. Registered nurses are also part of the palliative care team, which may be accessed from the local palliative care hospital, hospice or community health centre.

Registered nurses may provide short-term personal care for people with MND who are not in a stable physical condition. They are able to monitor the person's condition and provide ongoing advice on symptom management in consultation with the GP or palliative care physician. They can also provide psychosocial and emotional support.

Palliative care

Palliative care teams may be accessed through the local hospital, hospice or community health centre. These teams include all/or some allied health, as above, as well as nursing and medical staff. Palliative care may also provide diversional, music and alternative therapies and volunteer visitors. Palliative care provides expert symptom management and emotional and social support to people with life threatening illnesses and their families in their own home. Palliative care may be available 24 hours a day. Depending on local availability and the needs and wishes of people with MND and their families, members of the palliative care team may be involved in providing care and support from diagnosis onwards or only in the later stages of MND.

Care Packages

Care packages are government funded and are aimed at people who require more than one type of service to assist them to live at home. Commonwealth funded care packages include CACP - Community Aged Care Packages and EACH - Extended Aged Care in the Home.

CACP and EACH are aimed at people over 65 who have a variety of care needs and whose needs are changing. An Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) must first assess the person's needs.

Other care packages may be locally available.

Sometimes the person with MND may not be able to access sufficient government funded care to meet their needs. There are a number of private agencies that can provide the services described in this section. Private agencies may be very expensive if used over an extended period of time, but the person with MND may have a private health fund which may cover some of the costs involved.