

Indigo Australasia (formerly the Independent Living Centre of WA) wishes to provide feedback on the recently published Aged Care Rules 2024 – Service List. Indigo is a provider of CHSP Allied Health, Home Modifications and the Pilot National Goods, Equipment and Assistive Technology Service (Geat2GO).

Whilst in general the service list seems reasonable and complete, Indigo would like to raise several concerns as detailed below:

**Prescriber Type:**

Under the service type Equipment and Products, each of the item numbers listed under Equipment and Products states that the items must be prescribed for the individual by an allied health professional. This implies that all goods require prescription by an allied health professional. It is our understanding that this was not the intention and as such wording amendment is required.

**Allied Health:**

We have noted that allied health has been split between the service types of Allied Health, Equipment and Products and Home Adjustments. Indigo has a great deal of experience in these three services and would strongly advocate against the separation of these items and would support all Allied Health being included in the service type Allied Health.

In our experience consumers often require a mix of the three types of Allied Health being suggested and these occur concurrently, during a full assessment of function it is often identified that the client can regain function through exercise and reablement programs or be supported to learn new ways of completing tasks at the same time as introducing interventions through assistive technology and home adjustment. Whilst all may be introduced at one time often during the course of the service different interventions occur and are modified. The separation across these service types is suggestive of a non holistic approach to care delivery and a linear timeline which often does not occur.

In addition we strongly advocate against including cost of allied health within the funding caps for Equipment and Products and Home Adjustments. This model supports limited service delivery by health professionals and again is not aligned to a holistic approach. Consumers are often very complex and require adjustments to care plans based on the outcomes being achieved. Therapists would always seek to support clients to regain function prior to prescribing AT and Home Adjustment interventions.

Indigo has experience at this method of funding. During the introduction of the HCP Emergency Funding through Geat2GO it was recognised that not all consumers would have funding for allied health to support prescription and as such we have used funding under the 2500 dollar cap to support this however it has not been without its challenges. Often initial interventions may not provide the complete solution and adjustments and additional products or education is required which can require multiple visits over a period of time. In addition it was often found that the funding cap was significantly depleted by these visits resulting in no funding remaining for the required products to be purchased.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the service list and would be happy to be contacted for any clarification required.

Yours sincerely

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