

Managing Temporary Leave

Your guide to Day Leave, Social Leave and Hospital Leave from your residential aged care home

When moving into an aged care home, one of the biggest fears people have is that they won't be able to go out or leave, and this is simply not the case! Your chosen residential aged care home is your new HOME. Every aged care provider should encourage you to continue participating in your normal social activities and spending quality time with your loved ones. You can still go out for lunch with friends, or spend a few days over Christmas with your family. There are a few different types of leave that can be taken when you are a permanent resident in an aged care home:

1. Pre-Entry Leave

New and transferring residents can use 7 days of pre-entry leave. This allows you to:

- secure your place in the aged care home
- prepare for your move

Room availabilities in residential aged care homes can fluctuate quickly, so once you've found your preferred home you want to ensure you have time to move in, at your own pace. Pre-entry leave allows you to "book" your room and organise your admission date within a 7-day period of accepting your admission offer. During this pre-entry period your chosen room cannot be offered to anyone else.

Pre-entry leave is only available if the room is ready for you to occupy. You can only be charged the Basic Daily Care Fee on pre-entry leave. Please read our Blog "[Fees and Charges Explained](#)" to learn more about the costs of care and services when you become a resident in an aged care home.

2. Day Leave

There is no restriction on the amount of day leave you can take - you could go out every day of the week. It's important that staff members of the home are aware of your planned outing, not only so they know you're not in the building, but also to prepare any medication that you might need to take while you are out. A "Leave Book" should be signed by you or representative when leaving and returning to the home. This is in case of an emergency, so all people that are in the home can be accounted for. The book can usually be found near the reception area of each home.

3. Social Leave

Many people that reside in an aged care home choose to take social leave to spend quality time overnight with family and friends. All permanent residents are entitled to take up to 52 days of overnight leave per financial year without affecting your fees or place in the home. It is important to keep in mind that even though you may be away from the home for several days, you will still be required to pay your daily fees for accommodation, care and services.

4. Hospital Leave



If you become unwell and need more medical treatment than your aged care home is able to offer you, the staff and your doctor may decide to transfer you to hospital for further treatment. There is no limit to the amount of hospital leave that may be taken by a permanent resident. There's no need to worry about your place in the home, it will still be there once you are ready to return from hospital. Please be aware that even when on hospital leave, you will still be required to pay your daily fees for accommodation, care and services.

5. Emergency Leave

During a significant emergency, the Australian Government may allow a person that is a permanent resident in an aged care home to take emergency leave. This can occur during:

- disasters (natural or otherwise)
- epidemics
- pandemics

People who take emergency leave don't use any of their social leave entitlements. This means they can move in with their family during the emergency without losing their place in their aged care home.

If you are considering moving from an aged care home to be with family during the Covid-19 Pandemic, please note you will still be required to pay your basic daily care fee, means tested care fee (if you have one) and your daily accommodation payment while you are on emergency leave.



6. Leave whilst on Respite Care

Respite residents are booked with the aged care home to stay for a period of time. While on respite leave there is no restriction on the amount of day leave you can take, so you could go out every day if you wanted to.

If you leave the home overnight for any reason whilst on respite care, even a trip to hospital, the home has to discharge you. If you wish to return after the overnight leave period, the respite will need to be re-booked and you will have to enter into a new respite agreement. Your respite fees will cease once you have left the home, and any money overpaid should be refunded. However, some homes may charge a percentage of the booked respite period if you leave the home before your respite period has ended. These early exit fees will be outlined in your respite agreement.

Here at Find Aged Care, we are firm believers that your social life should continue once you move into residential aged care. Wellness is not just looking after your care needs, but also other areas of your life including your social, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. We encourage you to still go on outings with friends and keep important family traditions alive. If you require any further information on taking leave from an aged care home, please contact us on 1300 509 992 or email us at info@findagedcare.com.au.

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