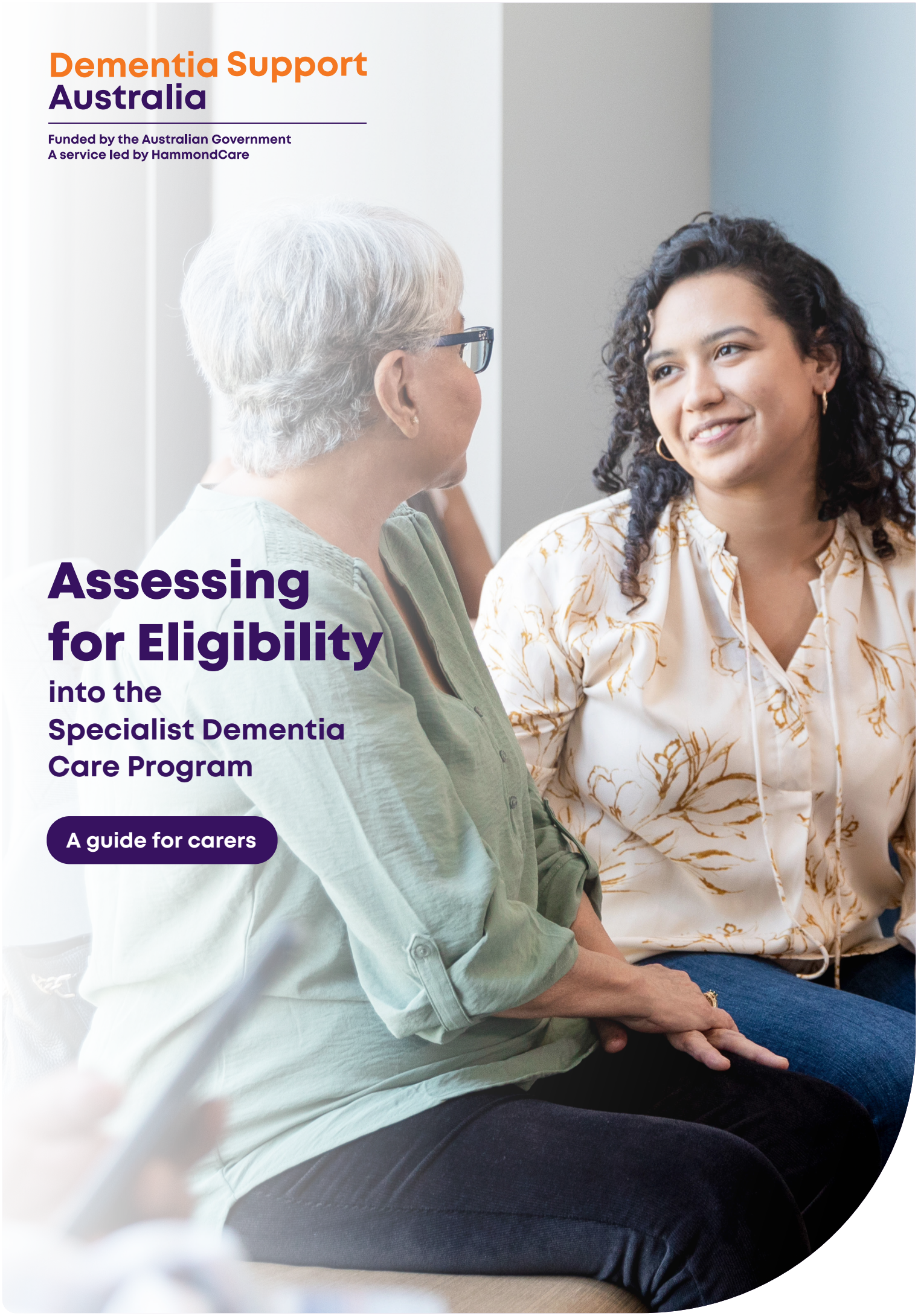
Dementia Support Australia

Funded by the Australian Government
A service led by HammondCare



Assessing for Eligibility

into the Specialist Dementia Care Program

A guide for carers

What is the Specialist Dementia Care Program?

The Specialist Dementia Care Program is a Commonwealth Government initiative that provides transitional care for people who are experiencing very severe behaviours and psychological symptoms of dementia and are unable to be adequately cared for in mainstream aged care or at home.

What does transitional mean?

The Specialist Dementia Care Program (SDCP) offers temporary, transitional care to stabilise and reduce a person's behavioural symptoms of dementia with an aim to then move to a less intensive care setting. The amount of time required in the specialised unit can vary and each person's journey can be different.

Benefits for a person living with dementia:

- A tailored and personalised approach.
- The care environment is specifically designed for a person with dementia, and caters to a smaller group of people.
- Specialist expertise in supporting a person living with dementia who has more severe behaviours.
- Individualised care to stabilise a person's behaviours to enable supported transition out of an SDCP and into mainstream aged care.

What are the financial implications?

The fee structure for the SDCP is the same as mainstream aged care. If there is an existing place in a residential aged care home, the refundable accommodation deposit will be refunded or transferred to the SDCP provider.

It is important to visit the Australian Government My Aged Care website at www.myagedcare.gov.au/aged-care-home-costs-and-fees for more information on aged care fees.

Who is eligible for the program?

A person is eligible if they have:

- A diagnosis of dementia and the changes in behaviour are a result of their diagnosis.
- Very severe behavioural or psychological symptoms of dementia.
- There have been specialist services involved in supporting the person to reduce behavioural symptoms which have been unsuccessful.
- The person is approved for residential aged care.



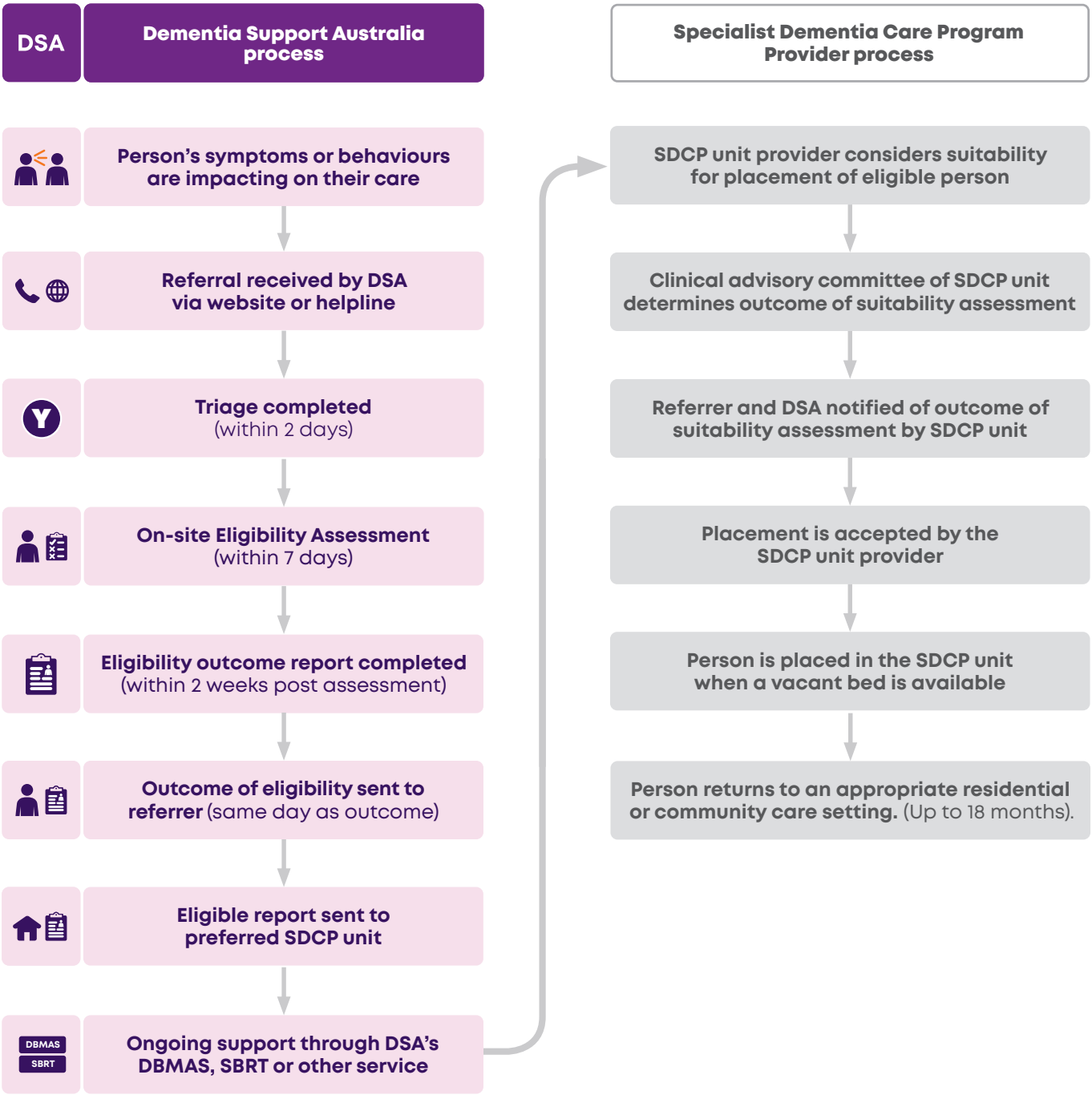
Who can refer for an assessment?

Dementia Support Australia (DSA) can take referrals from anyone, including family, residential home staff, hospitals or older persons mental health units.

To start a referral or to learn more about the referral process visit the Dementia Support Australia website at: **dementia.com.au/sdcp**

How DSA assess for eligibility

Funded by the Australian Government, **DSA assesses eligibility for the Specialist Dementia Care Program**. If a person is eligible, the Specialist Dementia Care unit provider will assess whether they are suitable for placement in their unit.



The role of family or carers in the process of assessment

- **Consent** - DSA aims to keep the person living with dementia informed in decisions that affect their care. When this is not possible it's important to gain consent from the legally appointed person responsible for their care.
- An assessment can only proceed once consent has been obtained.
- This will be followed up by the DSA assessor during the process of assessment.
- Where possible, the person living with dementia and their family or carers can provide valuable information to support the assessment.



If a person is assessed as eligible, does that mean they enter an SDCP unit straight away?

A person can be considered eligible for the program, however, the person must also be considered suitable for placement for their preferred unit. Behaviours and needs of existing residents must be considered when bringing in someone new. Units may also be at capacity and therefore unable to take a new resident.

How long will the assessment process take?

DSA is responsible for assessing eligibility for the program. From referral to outcome of the assessment generally takes 3 weeks.

The decision regarding suitability for placement is made by the provider and is dependent on several factors, entry into a unit for placement cannot be defined by DSA.

Where are the Specialist Dementia Care units?

Information on SDCP unit provider locations across Australia can be found on the Department of Health's website at www.health.gov.au/specialist-dementia-care-program.

Where can I find more information about the SDCP?

You can find more information about the SDCP on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website www.health.gov.au/specialist-dementia-care-program or make contact with SDCP unit providers to discuss admission.

What is Dementia Support Australia?

Dementia Support Australia is a free nationwide service for people living with dementia and their carers.

We provide support when behaviour has changed and is distressing for the person or someone caring for them. Dementia consultants provide practical advice and recommendations to carers, with an aim to improve the presentation of behaviour.

DSA offers support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year throughout Australia.

DSA is also responsible for assessing for eligibility for entry into the Specialist Dementia Care Program through a Needs Based Assessment (NBA).



DSA provides several levels of support based on the needs of the person with dementia.

1 Staying at Home (SaH)

A carer education and respite program that helps people who live with dementia to stay at home longer.

2 Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (DBMAS)

Supports staff and carers with client information, assessment and advice both in residential aged care and the community.

3 Severe Behaviour Response Team (SBRT)

A responsive agile service, available to support and provide timely expertise and advice to residential aged care staff.

4 Eligibility Assessments for the Specialist Dementia Care Program

A program that provides more specialised dementia care when needed. Referral for an assessment can be made by anyone and regardless of location of the person living with dementia.

Each support service can be accessed independently. DSA identifies the optimal service level for each client via a team with extensive experience of supporting people living with dementia.

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Start a referral

To refer a client, call us anytime on **1800 699 799**, or fill in an online form at **dementia.com.au/sdcp**

More information

Department of Health and Aged Care
health.gov.au

Dementia Support Australia
dementia.com.au

Contact us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year or chat with us now on our website

1800 699 799

dementia.com.au/sdcp