

My submission on accessing Aged Care:

- I did so about 18 months ago when I wanted to access Catholic Aged Care exercise classes at my village.
- *I found out about it through residents who were on the plan. 6 months prior.
- *The paperwork discouraged me from even trying but my health was so bad, I went ahead.

*I'm not sure how long I had to wait for the assessment, maybe a month.

* I live in a regional area so it was a phone assessment by a very friendly lady.

* As well as the exercise classes, I asked for cleaning and shopping help. The availability took months to arrive and when I rang, they were no longer available. I've had to hire a much more expensive resident from here.

Our Probus group just had a one hour talk by a lady from Aged Care. She was an interesting speaker but I was very confused by it all and I still have all my faculties. She said that if we want to access other help, like aids and say, residential care, the various departments don't talk to each other. We have to start the whole interview process again each time. **There needs to be a way for our paperwork to be shared with the other agencies. It is very stressful for the applicant and/or carer to have to go through it all again and again.**

Regards from Penny Hill