

# How to choose a residential aged care service

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When it comes time for a move into residential care, choosing the right service can be a difficult, but important, decision. While choosing carefully is the key to a good experience, many people struggle to know where to start.

Your decision will include many factors, but start by making the same sort of decisions that you would for any property decision. This includes:

1. Choose the location
2. Think about what feels like home and what sort of amenities you want access to
3. Check if the price is affordable
4. Get advice on how to structure finances to pay.

## Choose the location

Location is always the first decision. This might be based on easy access to services or who you want to be close to. For example, do you want to stay in the same area so you can continue with the same doctor, hairdresser, church group and friends. Or would you prefer to move closer to family so they can visit more often.

## What feels like home

Some services are newer, some are older. The style of building and available services can also vary. Think about what makes you comfortable. A newer facility might look nice, but you might prefer a service that is smaller or has a more homely feel.

If you have always lived in a house, would you now be comfortable in a multistorey building or do you need one that has great gardens and lots of open space. Think about what makes you happiest.

Remember this will be your new home, so when you take a tour, watch how staff and residents interact with each other. Ask about additional lifestyle services and choices you might have about things like entertainment programs and meals.

## Check affordability

Room prices can range up to \$2 million. You will need to make a choice that fits your price range – and this might need compromises. If the price looks high, you might choose to pay a daily fee to “rent” the room instead. You don’t have to hand over a large lump sum but this might make good financial sense.

## Get financial advice

Financial advice from an Accredited Aged Care Professional can help you to decide what you can afford and show you some tricks to make what seems unaffordable more affordable. We have the expertise to help you make an informed decision. Call us on [02 6274 0400](tel:0262740400) for help today.

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