

Aged Care Access Initiative



This Federal Government initiative provides funding for clinical care services for residents in aged care that are not currently funded under Medicare or by other government funding.

Our model of health care service delivery is providing an innovative solution to the lack of allied health services available for elderly people in residential aged care.

Under the **Aged Care Access Initiative (ACAI)**, GPpartners has developed partnerships with four local Universities to place post graduate students into aged care facilities to provide allied health much need psychological and dental care.

The program began in 2009 with post graduate psychology students placed into residences to provide **counselling and therapy services** to the elderly. Funding under ACAI supports the intern's supervision requirements.

The model provides a cost effective service with interns providing around 120 hours of face-to-face time with residents. Interns also benefit from a broader range of clinical experience and prospective career pathways.

The success of the psychology program has opened up potential for clinical placements in other disciplines. GPpartners is now working with the Universities to provide dental, dietician and social work placements into aged care.

More than 1600 residents of Brisbane aged care homes have so far benefitted from the psychology program.

Residents have also had much needed **dental health care** provided under the program. GPpartners has engaged two dentistry services to provide bedside oral health assessments to 1300 residents.

Mobile dental hygienists will follow up the oral health assessments of around 650 residents this year.

The program is managed by GPpartners in association with Brisbane South Division.

Press for our ACAI initiative:

- '[Gen Y goes geriatric](#)' - Mental Health Review, April issue
- '[Taking the initiative](#)' - Australian Ageing Agenda, January issue
- '[Psychological Support for Residents](#)' - Australian Ageing Agenda, 11 March

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