



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Dear ACCNA and CENA Field Test Participant

On behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing and State and Territory Governments, I write to thank you and acknowledge your contribution to the field testing of the Australian Community Care Needs Assessment (ACCNA) and the Carers Eligibility and Needs Assessment (CENA) and provide you with feedback and early findings from the tests.

The University of Wollongong, Centre for Health Service Development (CHSD), will shortly produce final reports on the outcomes of the technical tests that ran from July 2006 to November 2006. In the meantime, some early findings are available in the attached fact sheet.

It is important to note that both the ACCNA and CENA will need further revision and refinement. Therefore, the version of the ACCNA and CENA supplied to service providers involved in levels one or two of the field testing will become outdated.

Continued use of the trial version of the ACCNA and CENA raises some important issues. Agencies need to be aware of a strong likelihood that a more developed version will be adopted for implementation nationally. Please also note that support from the Department of Health and Ageing, State or Territory Governments or CHSD will not be available to service providers who choose to continue using the current version of the ACCNA and/or CENA.

Once refined, the ACCNA and CENA will undergo further systems testing in 2007.

The Department of Health and Ageing and State and Territory Governments appreciate the level of effort required to participate in the field test and acknowledge the impact on service providers involved so far. To ensure we don't overload organisations and to include a broad range of service providers in the development of the ACCNA and CENA, testing next year may involve a different group of service providers. Your participation in the recently concluded ACCNA and CENA field testing does not mean that you will be automatically involved in further testing and I would like to thank you and all staff involved for your invaluable assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tracey Duffy'.

Tracey Duffy
Director
Community Care Branch
7 December 2006