

## Coming to ACAT – for people who may need a guardian or manager

Every day, we all have to make choices and decisions. You might find it hard to make some decisions. You also may not be sure if a decision is a good one for you.

Sometimes, people who are close to you, like a family member or carer, might think that you need help to make decisions. When that happens, the people close to you might ask us for help.

We are the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (which is also called ACAT for short). ACAT is like a court. We can decide if you need a guardian or manager to help you make decisions.

A guardian helps you make personal decisions about your health and welfare, and where you might live. A manager helps you make decisions about your property including your money.

If someone asks us to choose a guardian or manager for you, we will make a date and time for an ACAT Member to talk to you and anyone else involved. This could include your family, your friends, your doctor or your carer. We call this meeting a **hearing**.

Before you attend the hearing at ACAT, tell us if there is anything you need help with. This could include disabled parking availability, using a wheelchair, using a hearing device or aid, bringing your assistance animal with you, access to large print documents and adjusting the lighting in the hearing room.

You can bring a support person with you when you come to ACAT.

At the hearing, we will ask you what you think about having a guardian or manager. We will ask you about the persons who have offered to be your guardian or manager. We will also ask other people close to you, such as a family member or carer, why they think you need a guardian or manager.

After we have talked with you and the other people involved and considered the documents in the case, The ACAT member will decide what is best for you.

If we decide that you should have a guardian or manager, ACAT will:

- choose who will be your guardian or manager to make decisions that are best for you; and
- decide what kind of decisions the guardian or manager can make.

When making decisions for you, your guardian or manager will ask you **what you think** and **what you want** before they decide what to do. ACAT will look at your situation at least once every three years, to see if anything has changed. You can also apply to ACAT at any time for us to look at your situation, if you think that something should be changed.

Visit our website to find easy to read information about having a guardian or manager. You can also find information about coming to ACAT, how ACAT can make its services accessible for you, and a list of people and organisations that you can contact for help and support.

To find out more, call or email us or go to our website at [www.acat.act.gov.au](http://www.acat.act.gov.au).