



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Community Aged Care – Viability Supplement in Rural and Remote Areas

Why is this important?

- People living in rural and remote areas need access to the same level and quality of community aged care services as people living in more populated areas. However, service providers face higher costs and difficulties in attracting and training staff.
- This measure will provide a viability supplement for community care programmes, such as Community Aged Care Packages and Extended Aged Care at Home Packages, in rural and remote areas. The supplement recognises the higher costs and recruitment difficulties faced by these services.

Who will benefit?

- Some 4,000 people in rural and remote areas who currently receive care through the Community Aged Care Packages and Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) Packages programmes, Multi Purpose Services (MPS) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Services will benefit from this initiative.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government has committed new funding of \$19.4 million over four years to provide viability supplements to community aged care services in rural and remote Australia.

What have we done in the past?

- The Government already provides a viability supplement for residential aged care services in rural and remote areas of Australia and recognises the need for a similar viability supplement for community aged care services in these areas.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This initiative will be reviewed in the 2010-11 Budget.