The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck**

MEDIA RELEASE

1 February 2017

Changes in WA home support aged care services

A new arrangement for home and community care and specialist disability services in Western Australia will result in the creation of a truly national aged care system and more integrated disability services for people aged 65 and over.

Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP, said a new agreement would see responsibilities for the Western Australian Home and Community Care (HACC) services and specialist disability services for older people transition to the Australian Government.

"The changes we are announcing today are consistent with arrangements across the other states and territories and will allow us to provide consistent service and support to people as they grow older, no matter where they live," Minister Wyatt said.

"The changes mean that the Australian Government will support older West Australians to remain in their homes, for as long as they can and wish to do so.

"Current clients of the WA specialist disability system who are not eligible for the NDIS due to their age will also continue to receive support under the new Commonwealth Continuity of Support Programme, or other programs that best support their needs."

Minister Wyatt said that the Commonwealth and WA Government would work together to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

"From 1 July 2018, the Australian Government will assume full funding, policy and operational responsibility for HACC services in WA for over 65s, while the changes to the WA specialist disability services will apply from 1 July 2019," Minister Wyatt said.

"We will be working closely with the Western Australian government to ensure that service delivery for both providers and clients remains seamless, and will keep all stakeholders updated on our progress throughout the transition period."

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