



# Commonwealth Home Support Programme provider update 2023-24 Extension

## December 2022

Following the October Budget, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) has been extended until 30 June 2024. This fact sheet outlines what providers need to know about the 2023-24 Extension and associated program changes.

All providers will receive a letter from the Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) specific to their organisation's CHSP 2023-24 proposed funding and outputs. This fact sheet supports the information outlined in that letter.

The department acknowledges there are various review processes underway. These will be addressed separately to this fact sheet. Further information will be available under [CHSP Resources on the department's website](#).

## 2023-24 Extension – similarities to 2022-23

CHSP providers will retain grant agreements similar to current arrangements:

1. All providers will continue with fixed monthly payments in arrears based on 1/12th of the total value of the grant agreement.
2. All providers will continue with monthly performance reporting through the Data Exchange. Reporting will be due 10 business days after the end of the month.

The above two elements apply to all service types except for Sector Support and Development (SSD). The SSD service type will continue with existing quarterly in advance payment and 6 monthly reporting arrangements.

3. Most service types will retain nationally consistent unit price ranges. However, exceptions include:
  - Assistance with Care and Housing (ACH) as services from 1 January 2023 are only for Hoarding and Squalor activities;
  - Goods, Equipment and Assistive Technology (GEAT) and Home Modifications will remain funded in dollars.
4. Additional loading for service delivery in remote and very remote areas will continue.
5. As described in the 2022-23 Grant Opportunity Guidelines, certain grant agreements may be reviewed and varied by reducing the amount of Commonwealth funding paid in 2023-24 to account for unexpended funds from previous years, to better reflect performance or address local service needs.

# 2023-24 Extension – changes for 2023-24:

## Adjustments to CHSP National Unit Price Range

From 1 July 2023, the national unit price range will be adjusted in the following ways:

- A 10% increase to prices at the bottom of the range
- A 5% increase to prices at the top of the range
- Transport prices will be increased by 11% at the bottom of the range and 6% at the top of the range in recognition of increased fuel costs.

The increases will be automatically applied to the CHSP 2023-24 proposed funding and outputs as outlined in a letter of offer that will be provided by the department to all organisations.

These adjustments will further support CHSP providers ahead of the proposed new in-home aged care program.

### Fair Work Commission decision - Aged Care Work Value Case

The interim 15% wage increase for Home Care Stream workers of the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Award recently [announced by the Fair Work Commission](#) is not included as part of this fact sheet.

The department acknowledges that CHSP providers may be eligible for additional funding to ensure this award increase reaches employees. The date of effect for this interim decision is currently pending a final determination by the Fair Work Commission. This is expected to be handed down in 2023.

The department is considering implementation options to deliver any additional funding to providers who need it in a targeted, timely manner. The design of this implementation is being informed by the results of the CHSP Survey on Employee Salaries and Employee Occupations carried out during November 2022.

### CHSP National Unit Price Ranges 2023-24: Table 1

Table 1 below indicates the 2023-24 CHSP National Unit Price Ranges, noting these price ranges exclude the client contribution

CHSP Unit Price Range 2023-24				
Service Type	2022-23 Unit Prices		2023-24 Unit Prices	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Allied Health and Therapy Services	\$95.00	\$125.00	\$104.50	\$131.25
Assistance with Care and Housing (Hoarding and Squalor)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Centre based Respite	\$27.00	\$51.00	\$29.70	\$53.55

CHSP Personal Care	\$51.00	\$68.00	\$56.10	\$71.40
CHSP Transport (one way trip)	\$18.00	\$36.00	\$19.98	\$38.16
Cottage Respite	\$28.00	\$53.00	\$30.80	\$55.65
Domestic Assistance	\$48.00	\$61.00	\$52.80	\$64.05
Flexible Respite	\$51.00	\$67.00	\$56.10	\$70.35
Goods, Equipment and Assistive Technology (dollars)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Home Maintenance	\$53.00	\$75.00	\$58.30	\$78.75
Home Modifications (dollars)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Meals (meals)	\$7.50	\$13.00	\$8.25	\$13.65
Nursing	\$104.00	\$129.00	\$114.40	\$135.45
Other Food Services	\$25.00	\$41.00	\$27.50	\$43.05
Sector Support and Development	NA	NA	NA	NA
Social Support - Group	\$17.00	\$27.00	\$18.70	\$28.35
Social Support - Individual	\$39.00	\$60.00	\$42.90	\$63.00
Specialised Support Services	\$76.00	\$118.00	\$83.60	\$123.90

## Loading for remote and very remote areas

The department recognises that the cost of service delivery in remote and very remote areas can be higher compared to metropolitan, regional and rural areas. From 1 July 2022, a loading of up to 40 per cent was made available for providers delivering 50% or more services in remote and very remote areas (MMM 6 and 7).

The department is reviewing all regional and remote loadings going forward as part of the in-home aged care reforms.

## Historical grant agreement variations

Where identified and evidenced, historical contractual errors regarding service types and locations may be corrected as part of extension. If this is managed through the flexibility provisions, then no contractual changes will be required.

## Variation process for early payments

The department will minimise disruption to monthly payment in arrears arrangements during variations to extend standard grant agreements. Providers will receive **two** full payments at the same time in the early stages of the process leading to a formal offer of 2023-24 funding.

## CHSP compliance activity

The department is undertaking ongoing compliance activities and examining service delivery and performance across all CHSP providers.

As part of the move to payment in arrears and monthly performance reporting, the department has been withholding payment for deliverables not being met. Since 1 July 2022, the CHSP sector has responded with a high compliance rate. Over 97% of CHSP providers have completed their monthly reporting requirements and financial acquittals in line with the current funding agreement.

Where providers have historical under-delivery, active monitoring has been occurring including some providers being issued a Quarterly Financial Stocktake for July to October 2022 to gather information on challenges and barriers in meeting current Activity Work Plan output requirements.

This information will inform potential reduction of 2023-24 funding where significant under delivery against the contracted outputs is not able to be justified.

## Specialised Support Services review

Following a series of consultations with Specialised Support Services (SSS) providers, including a survey and workshop, the department is refining the definition of SSS services. This will ensure a greater alignment with the intent of the CHSP service type. This new definition will come into effect from 1 July 2023.

If any activities are deemed to be out-of-scope for SSS and for CHSP, this will be identified in the extension letter. Providers will be given the opportunity to re-align these services to be in-scope during the 2023-24 financial year.

More information will be detailed in a specific fact sheet about SSS services, which will be available on the department's website under [CHSP Resources](#).

## Serious Incident Response Scheme

The SIRS aims to reduce and prevent the abuse and neglect of older Australians and has been in place since 1 April 2021 for aged care services delivered in residential settings. On 1 December 2022, the SIRS was extended to include home care services and flexible care services delivered in home and community settings.

The expansion of SIRS was Recommendation 100 in the Final Report of Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (Commission). The SIRS is enabled through legislation and will apply to CHSP and NATSIFACP providers as part of their grant arrangements.

CHSP providers are required to have an incident management system in place and notify the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission if a reportable incident occurs via the My Aged Care Service and Support portal.

The SIRS notification form will be available in the portal for CHSP providers from 1 December 2022. Additional information can be found at [www.agedcarequality.gov.au](http://www.agedcarequality.gov.au).

# The CHSP Manual

The CHSP manual has been updated and is published on the department's website.

The manual reflects the current 2022-23 unit prices however will be updated again prior to July 2023 to include the unit prices outlined above in Table 1.

## Flexibility provisions

100% Flexibility provisions will remain as part of the CHSP manual in 2023-24.

There is no change to what is outlined in the current CHSP manual regarding Providers having full flexibility to re-allocate up to 100 per cent of their grant funds between funded service types and ACPRs listed in their CHSP Activity Work Plan to better meet local demand pressures.

The flexibility provision applies across all CHSP service types and sub-programs, except Sector Support and Development (unless approved by the department).