

Aged Care Taskforce

Communique 22 November 2023 meeting

The Aged Care Taskforce held its sixth meeting on 22 November 2023 in Sydney. The Taskforce considered feedback from additional consultation sessions with Chief Financial Officers from residential aged care providers and banking and superannuation sector representatives.

Taskforce members considered a package of reforms to provide a system that is simpler and more flexible and transparent for older people, while enabling the aged care sector to meet current and future funding challenges and support service quality and innovation.

As part of these deliberations, members noted research conducted by Kantar Public on public understanding and perception of co-contributions in aged care. The key themes raised through the research are:

- people mistakenly believe they need to pay for 49 per cent of their aged care costs, which they feel is too much
- government actually pays 95 per cent of home care costs and 75 per cent of residential aged care costs
- when people know the full cost of aged care services, they are willing to pay between 30 and 40 per cent of the cost of the service
- people are willing to pay more for home care services that are essential and increase quality of life and dignity
- people are willing to pay higher co-contributions for services where the costs of services is transparent and they understand what they receive for their co-contribution
- 75 per cent of people prefer a 'user pays' model where they provide a co-contribution for services received
- people have limited understanding of how the aged care system works and how changes to the system will impact them.