



# Commonwealth Home Support Programme 2024-25 Extension

## Provider update – February 2024

Following the May 2023 Budget, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) has been extended until 30 June 2025.

This fact sheet outlines what existing providers need to know about the 2024-25 Extension and associated program changes. It supports the information shared with providers as part of the extension process.

## CHSP 2024-25 Extension

For the CHSP 2024-25 Extension, all providers will be issued with a variation to their current grant agreement.

In January 2024, existing CHSP providers were sent a letter from the Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) outlining their organisation’s CHSP 2024-25 proposed funding and outputs.

The letter also scoped whether any variations to existing arrangements (funding, location, services, unit prices and exits) were required and sought providers’ intent to continue delivering services in 2024-25.

Only providers who requested changes through the January 2024 process or have MMM loading to be applied are eligible for consideration of changes and the department will process these requests for the 2024-25 contract adjustments.

It is anticipated formal offers will be made from the end of April 2024.

## Indicative extension timeline

Table 1: CHSP 2024-25 Extension indicative timeline

Financial Year	2023/24					
Calendar Year	2024					
Key work items	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Grant Opportunity open for 24-25 Extension						
Invitation to apply sent to CHSP providers *						
Contracts offered						
Contracts finalised						

\*The department may not send an invitation to apply to all providers at the time the grant opportunity opens. This is to allow for continued discussions with identified providers about their current 2023-24 contract, funding, services and/or performance.

## Similarities with 2023-24 Extension

In 2024-25, CHSP providers will retain grant agreements similar to current arrangements, which include:

1. Returning to fixed monthly payments in arrears based on 1/12th of the total value of the grant agreement, following the payment changes in 2023-24 for the Fair Work Commission (FWC) process.
2. 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. Nationally consistent unit price ranges, with the exceptions of:
  - Assistance with Care and Housing (ACH) Hoarding and Squalor; and
  - Goods, Equipment and Assistive Technology (GEAT) and Home Modifications, which are reported in dollars.
4. Additional loading for service delivery in remote and very remote areas.
5. Compliance activities that may result in certain grant agreements being reviewed and varied by reducing the amount of Commonwealth funding paid in 2024-25 to account for unexpended funds from previous years, to better reflect performance or to address local service needs.

## Additional and roll over funding

The 2024-25 extension is not an opportunity to request additional funds.

Providers will not be allowed to roll over any unspent 2023-24 funds into 2024-25.

We are actively looking at growth funding opportunities for 2024-25 and further information will be available in the coming months.

Providers who applied and were successful for the [FWC CHSP Base Funding Grant](#) will have these funds included in their CHSP grant agreement from 1 July 2024.

## Adjustments to CHSP National Unit Price Range

From 1 July 2024, the National Unit Price Range will be indexed and adjusted accordingly.

The unit price increases will be automatically applied to the CHSP 2024-25 proposed funding and outputs as outlined in the formal letter of offer to providers.

In-scope CHSP providers will have their unit price range adjusted if they were successful in applying for the FWC CHSP Base Funding Grant. This FWC funding will be automatically applied to their CHSP base funding from 1 July 2024.

## CHSP National Unit Price Ranges 2024-25

Table 2 below indicates the 2023-24 and 2024-25 CHSP National Unit Price Ranges, noting these price ranges exclude client contributions, MMM loadings and the FWC CHSP Base Funding Grant amounts to be applied from 1 July 2024.

**Table 2: 2023-24 and 2024-25 CHSP National Unit Price Ranges**

CHSP Service Type	Output	2023-24 Unit Prices		2024-25 Unit Prices	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Allied Health and Therapy Services	Hour	\$104.50	\$131.25	\$108.16	\$135.84
Assistance with Care and Housing (Hoarding and Squalor)	Time	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Centre-based Respite	Hour	\$29.70	\$53.55	\$30.74	\$55.42
Cottage Respite	Hour	\$30.80	\$55.65	\$31.88	\$57.60
Domestic Assistance	Hour	\$52.80	\$64.05	\$54.65	\$66.29
Flexible Respite	Hour	\$56.10	\$70.35	\$58.06	\$72.81
Goods, Equipment and Assistive Technology	Dollars	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Home Maintenance	Hour	\$58.30	\$78.75	\$60.34	\$81.51
Home Modifications	Dollars	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Meals	Meal	\$8.25	\$13.65	\$8.54	\$14.13
Nursing	Hour	\$114.40	\$135.45	\$118.40	\$140.19
Other Food Services	Hour	\$27.50	\$43.05	\$28.46	\$44.56
Personal Care	Hour	\$56.10	\$71.40	\$58.06	\$73.90
Sector Support and Development	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social Support Group	Hour	\$18.70	\$28.35	\$19.35	\$29.34
Social Support Individual	Hour	\$42.90	\$63.00	\$44.40	\$65.21
Specialised Support Services	Hour	\$83.60	\$123.90	\$86.53	\$128.24
Transport	One way trip	\$19.98	\$38.16	\$20.68	\$39.50

### FWC interaction with CHSP unit prices

Stage 3 of the Aged Care Work Value case is still being considered by the FWC. We are aware the outcome of stage 3 may impact CHSP providers during 2024-25. Further advice will be provided following the FWC decision.

In the meantime, the National Unit Price Range above does not reflect the impact of stage 2 of the Aged Care Work Value case, and associated grant funding awarded to some CHSP providers.

Unit price ranges will be reviewed once the Aged Care Work Value case is finalised, with a new National Unit Price Range expected to be in effect from 1 July 2025.

### **Loading for remote and very remote areas**

Over the last two years, we have been working with providers to fully understand the increased costs of service delivery in remote and very remote areas, compared to metropolitan, regional and rural areas. Information regarding regional service delivery has also been collected through compliance activities and provider surveys.

Since 1 July 2022, a loading of up to 40% was made available for providers delivering 50% or more services in remote and very remote areas (MMM 6 and 7).

This loading will continue to be applied in the 2024-25 Extension for eligible organisations.

### **CHSP Community Transport Pricing Pilot**

The current pricing architecture for CHSP community transport does not take into consideration service location or the service delivery model.

As a result, between now and 30 June 2027, we are undertaking a pilot study for transport services. The core objective of the pilot is to develop and test a more accurate way of accounting for service delivery components, and their relationship to costs, including consideration of the social capital elements and complexity.

Through this pilot, we will aim to develop, test and evaluate alternative evidence-based funding policies for CHSP transport, ahead of CHSP transitioning to the Support at Home program no earlier than 1 July 2027.

For information about the [CHSP Community Transport Pricing Pilot](#), the providers involved, and project timeframes, visit the department's website.

### **Sector Support Development (SSD)**

SSD services will continue into 2024-25 with no significant changes to this sub-program.

SSD provider 2024-25 Activity Work Plans will be due 30 July 2024.

### **Specialised Support Services (SSS)**

We have worked with SSS providers to ensure the services being delivered are aligned with the most appropriate service type.

Clinical services are not provided under SSS. Older people requiring clinical services can have these supports delivered under the CHSP Nursing and/or Allied Health and Therapy service types or alternative programs funded by the Commonwealth or state or territory governments.

If an organisation delivers clinical services under SSS, they should contact their Funding Arrangement Manager to discuss their funding allocation under an alternative service type.

## **CHSP compliance activity**

We undertake ongoing compliance activities and examine service delivery and performance across all funded CHSP providers.

Where providers have historical under-delivery, active monitoring will continue.

This information will inform potential reductions of 2024-25 funding where significant under-delivery against the contracted outputs is not justified. We are in discussions with CHSP providers engaged in the compliance process about their 2024-25 funding.

## **Flexibility provisions**

Flexibility provisions will continue in 2024-25. The flexibility provision applies across all CHSP service types and sub-programs, with the exception of SSD and ACH.

Service providers that use flexibility provisions to establish funded service types in an Aged Care Planning Region (ACPR) must keep a minimum of a 50% footprint for the relevant service type in the ACPR. This ensures those services remain in the ACPR and align in part to the grant agreement.

We will continue to monitor the flexibility provisions holistically across contracted services in 2024-25 to gauge compliance and will take into consideration unit price variance between service types delivered.

## **Provider relinquishments and transition timing**

If a provider plans to discontinue delivering CHSP services in 2024-25, they must notify their Funding Arrangement Manager and the department in writing of their proposal to transfer all or part of their services as soon as possible and include a draft Transition Out Plan.

The proposed withdrawal date must be a minimum of 4 months from the date of the first draft Transition Out Plan.

CHSP providers must negotiate with the department on a suitable transition date with the replacement organisation. Funding Arrangement Managers can provide a copy of the Transition Out Plan template.

## **The CHSP Manual**

The [CHSP Manual](#) will be updated prior to 1 July 2024, and will include the updated unit prices as outlined in Table 2 (page 3).

There will be no significant changes in the CHSP Manual for 2024-25.