



Appendix A – Context and history of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

1. Context of the CHSP in the aged care system

Australia's aged care system is made up of several programs with different services and eligibility requirements to meet a wide range of support needs.

In addition to the CHSP, the Commonwealth aged care system also includes:

- **Home Care Packages (HCP) Program:** supports older people with high support needs through a coordinated care approach. It provides four levels of care and is suitable for older people who wish to continue living in their own homes.
- **Residential aged care:** provides a range of care options and accommodation (including short-term and emergency care) for older people who cannot live independently in their own home.
- **Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Programme:** an early intervention program that provides services for up to 8 weeks to prevent or delay older people from entering long-term care. STRC services may be delivered at home, in a residential care setting or a combination of both.
- **Transition Care Programme (TCP):** provides short-term, goal oriented and therapy-focused care for older people after hospital stays. It can be offered in a person's home, a community setting or a residential aged care setting.
- **Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) program:** joint initiative of the Australian Government and state and territory governments. It provides integrated health and aged care services for small rural and remote communities.
- **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care (NATSIFAC) Program:** provides culturally appropriate aged care services to older First Nations people. These services are offered close to home and community and are mainly located in rural and remote areas.

Other Commonwealth-funded supports available, include:

- **Navigation support** through [My Aged Care](#), [Aged Care Specialist Officers](#) at Services Australia centres and the [care finder program](#).
- **Carer support** through [Carer Gateway](#) and other carer-specific programs funded through the Department of Social Services.

- **Dementia support** through various [dementia support services](#), including [Dementia Australia](#).
- **Client support and advocacy** through the [Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme \(ACVVS\)](#), the [National Aged Care Advocacy Program \(NACAP\)](#) and the [Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission](#).

The CHSP does not replace or fund support systems provided by the health care system.

2. History of the CHSP

The Australian Government designed the CHSP as part of a broader set of changes to the aged care system.

The CHSP's design was informed by a broad consultation process. This included advice from the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA), its CHSP Advisory Group and feedback received from peak groups, organisations and individuals in early 2015.

The Australian Government continues to refine the CHSP through ongoing consultations with peak bodies, service providers and individuals.

The following Commonwealth-funded programs were consolidated into the CHSP from 1 July 2015:

- Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program
- planned respite services under the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP)
- Day Therapy Centres (DTC) Program
- Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program.

Existing clients of the Victorian HACC program were transitioned into the CHSP from 1 July 2016 and those in the Western Australian HACC program were transitioned into the CHSP from 1 July 2018.