



**The Hon Sam Rae MP**  
Minister for Aged Care and Seniors

**AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE MINISTER FOR AGED CARE AND SENIORS**

I am honoured to be your new federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors.

I have spent my first three weeks as your Minister listening to older people, their families and carers, aged care workers, providers and others in the sector who have generously shared their views and feedback with me. I am privileged to be taking on an immensely important job.

Workers are at the front line of the aged care reforms. You have told us you need more time to understand, prepare and learn about new ways of working so you can continue to provide safe and quality care for older people as we move to the new Aged Care Act.

So we can deliver these reforms in the way that they were intended, and after careful consideration, the Australian Government has decided to defer the start of the new Act from 1 July 2025 to 1 November 2025.

Whether you are a personal care worker, a chef, nurse, lifestyle coordinator or working behind the scenes, you play a vital part in delivering the safe, high-quality and rights-based care that older people deserve. We want to make sure you continue to feel supported, valued and recognised for the important work you do.

We will use this extra time to work with you and your employers to:

- help you build capability and support you in understanding new requirements
- prepare older people for change so they know what they can expect from each of you
- finalise systems and processes for governance and reporting
- develop guidance and training modules for key changes.

The Albanese Government has already invested \$17.7 billion to deliver better award wages for aged care workers because we value and understand your crucial role in ensuring older people live their best lives.

We share a common goal in getting these once-in-a-generation reforms right so we can deliver a sustainable and world-class aged care system for all Australians. I look forward to working with you, your employers and older people to get the new Act implementation right for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Rae', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sam Rae

6 June 2025