

Multi-Purpose Service Program (MPSP)

Webinar #14

Aged care reforms: Impacts on the MPSP & providers

2 March 2026

Thin Markets Branch

What do we intend to cover today?

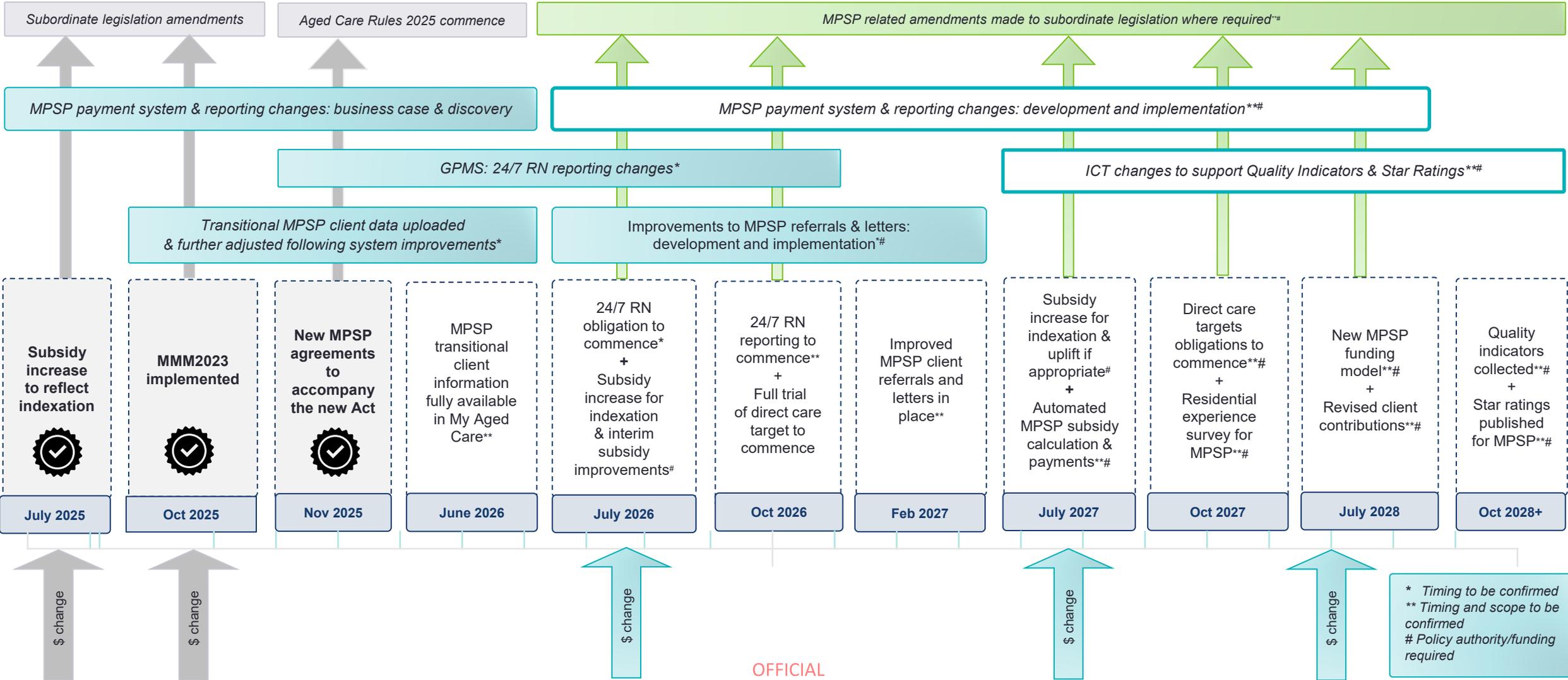
Agenda Item	Speaker
<p>Introduction and acknowledgement of country</p> <p>Revised MPSP reform schedule for 2026 to 2028</p> <p>General updates</p> <p>MPSP reform trials and updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• preparations for moving to formal 24/7 RN arrangements• update on direct care targets trial	<p>Chair</p> <p>Kate Harkins</p> <p>Director, MPSP Section</p>
<p>Next steps for MPSP funding model review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• discussion paper and workshops with jurisdictions	<p>Carla Cowles-Henriquez</p> <p>A/g Assistant Director, Thin Markets Policy & Reform Section</p>
<p>Question and Answers</p>	

Revised updated MPSP reform schedule (as at 1 December 2025)

Aged Care Act 2024 commences on 1 November 2025 including:

- new eligibility and assessment requirements, and requirements for delivery of home care under the MPSP
- new regulatory model and new quality standards (with IHACSM module)
- new subsidy framework based on current funding model
- transitional arrangements in place for existing providers, individuals and places

Further amendments made to the new Act**



* Timing to be confirmed
 ** Timing and scope to be confirmed
 # Policy authority/funding required

Aged Care Provider Workforce Survey 2026

- To meet rec 75(1)a of the Royal Commission, the department will conduct an Aged Care Provider Workforce Survey every 2 years
- The survey collects information on:
 - size, composition & characteristics of the aged care workforce
 - turnover and vacancy rates
- HealthConsult has been engaged to conduct this survey
- The MPSP has been selected to participate and online survey links emailed to all providers in February
- The survey is open for 6-weeks, closing on **27 March 2026**.



MPSP allocation of places for 2025-26



- 100 residential places will be made available for allocation in 2025-26
- Will be for MPS to expand existing services
- Further information and application forms will be made available on the MPSP website soon!



MPS referral codes – Update

- All eligible MPS clients now have a notification in their My Aged Care profile confirming their eligibility under the new Act
- Some assessors are still adapting to in-system referrals and MPS referral processes
 - Currently, the only referral code available is '**MPS – residential care**'
 - This code is used for both residential and home/community care service groups
 - New IT system changes commence 1 July 2026 with a single updated code: “**Services under the MPSP**”

Key message

All clients needing MPSP care require a MPSP referral code in addition to a service referral code.



MPSP Updates - Trials

Kate Harkins, Multi-Purpose Service Program



Moving to formal 24/7 RN arrangements

- Work is underway to update legislation to introduce the 24/7 RN obligation to the MPSP from 1 July 2026.

Schedule of implementation



- Enacting the obligation in April will enable MPS sites to apply for an exemption prior to 1 July 2026.
- Planned ICT changes will enable MPSP providers to report directly to GPMS from 1 October 2026.

Resources to assist providers

- Mainstream 24/7 RN resources are being revised to include the MPSP
- The MPSP webpage will be updated to include links to all 24/7 RN resources
- A webinar will demonstrate how MPSP providers can report in GPMS



Important reminder

All MPS sites with separately located lodges or hostels are deemed as **one residential care home** under the *Aged Care Act 2024*. This means that the MPS should report on their compliance at the service level – not on individual buildings.

24/7 RN exemptions

- MPS can apply for an exemption from April 2026 if required
- Mainstream exemption criteria will apply to the MPSP
 - be in MM5-7 based on the 2023 classifications
 - have no more than 30 operational beds (on the day a decision is made)
- Providers must have taken reasonable steps to ensure care needs of residents will be met during the exemption period
 - The ACQSC may visit an MPS before an exemption is granted to ensure that processes are in place to support this
- Exemptions may be granted for up to 12 months and providers must still submit the 24/7 RN report each month
- Having an exemption or reporting non-compliance will not impact funding





The trial is still ongoing.
February 24/7 RN trial reporting is due to
MPSreforms@health.gov.au by **7 March**

Full trial of direct care targets to all MPS

- The MPSP reforms implementation timeline provides for an expanded trial of direct care targets to all MPS from 1 October 2026.
- The department is reviewing outcomes from recent acuity assessments and time in motion reporting.
- Given the ongoing IHACPA funding model review, the trial may involve different stages and initially aim to collect information that can inform decision-makers about the current level of care being provided.

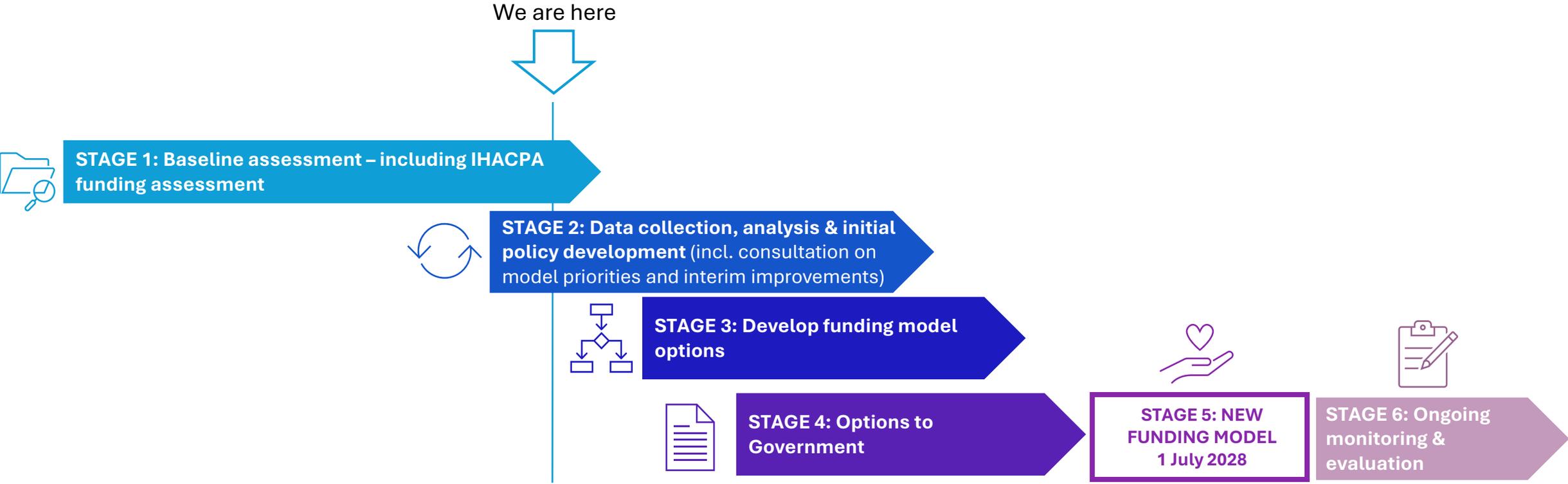


MPSP Updates – Funding reforms

Carla Cowles-Henriquez,, Thin Markets Policy & Reforms



Review stages



Next steps

- Department
 - deep dive summary report and discussion paper
 - workshops with state and territory deep dive participants – Mar/Apr
 - ongoing data collection and analysis of internal data
- IHACPA
 - data collection and analysis
 - interim improvements
 - future funding arrangement options
 - next report to department due March 2026



What to expect?

- Quick win's – what can we fix while the review is underway?
- Interim costing advice from IHACPA
- Early thinking about new arrangements



Other updates

- MMM review for aged care
 - Final report and recommendations to be published
- Regional, Rural and Remote Aged Care Policy Framework
 - Draft framework and companion guide underway
 - Consultations in March



Questions

