Support at Home Provider information session

End-of-Life Pathway extension

October 2026



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we meet today and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We would like to extend that acknowledgement and respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

House keeping

Session purpose: Explain key operational updates needed to support providers implementing the changes resulting from the End-of-Life Pathway extension.

- Q&A will be held at the end of the session
- Please raise your hand to ask a question
- Questions can be posted in the chat

In scope

Operational matters following the recent announcement of the End-of-Life Pathway extension changes coming into effect on 8 March 2027

Out of scope

Changing policy and legislative settings agreed by Government and articulated in the Aged Care Act.

Reflections

Theme	What we heard	What we are doing
Early preparation for changes	Providers need sufficient lead time to understand changes, plan activities and prepare their systems, workforce and participants.	Starting engagement earlier and providing a long lead time to the 8 March 2027 implementation date.
Practical transition support	Providers value clear, action-focused tools that translate policy into practical implementation steps.	For the End-of-Life Pathway extension, we are developing a provider readiness checklist and supporting resources, including transition guidance, practical examples and an Easy Read resource.
Consistent communication	Providers need materials they can use to communicate consistent information across their organisation and with participants.	Developing stakeholder kits with key messages, participant information, adaptable communication materials.
Inclusive and targeted engagement	Different stakeholder groups and communities need information delivered through relevant, accessible and trusted channels.	Providing targeted engagement and resources for providers, health professionals, assessors, First Nations organisations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
Ongoing access and questions	Stakeholders value regular opportunities to ask questions, revisit information and access answers outside the live session.	Continuing provider information sessions, recording and publishing sessions, maintaining an interactive Q&A, and working on enabling questions to be submitted before sessions as well as taken on notice.

End-of-Life Pathway extension

Overview



End-of-Life Pathway extension

- From **8 March 2027**, the End-of-Life Pathway **will be extended to support continuity of care** for older people who remain living at home after the initial 12-week period.
- Eligible participants will receive an **initial funding allocation** of approximately $25,000 when they enter the pathway.
- Participants who **remain living at home at the end of the initial 12-week period** will automatically continue for a further 12 weeks and receive an **additional funding allocation** of approximately $25,000.
- **Providers do not need to arrange a reassessment** or **submit a new form** for the participant to continue on the pathway.
- **There are no changes to eligibility criteria or arrangements for accessing the pathway.**

Support at Home

End-of-Life Pathway extension

What's changing from 8 March 2027

- Participants who remain living at home at the end of the initial 12-week period **will automatically continue on the pathway for a further 12 weeks**
- Participants who continue on the pathway will receive an **additional funding allocation** of approximately $25,000.
- Providers do not need to arrange a reassessment or submit a new form for the participant to continue on the pathway
- Eligible participants **already approved for or receiving End-of-Life Pathway** services at commencement will **automatically transition to the extended arrangements**
- **The Minister signed amendments to the Aged Care Rules,** with the changes commencing on **8 March 2027**

Key message: The extension supports continuity of care by providing longer support and additional funding, without requiring eligible participants to reapply or be reassessed.

What's not changing

- Eligibility criteria and arrangements for accessing the pathway remain unchanged
- An expected prognosis of approximately three months or less to live remains required
- An AKPS score of 40 or below remains required
- Certification by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner remains required
- A completed End-of-Life Pathway Form remains required to confirm eligibility
- Older people can access the End-of-Life Pathway once through Support at Home
- The pathway continues to complement, not replace, state and territory specialist palliative care services.

Accessing services beyond the End-of-Life Pathway

What remains in place

- Participants will exit the pathway when they pass away, no longer wish to or cannot remain at home, or their pathway ends
- Urgent Support Plan Reviews remain available where ongoing support is required
- Transition to an ongoing Support at Home classification where appropriate

Supporting continuity of care

- Providers will receive an SPR reminder from week 20
- New indicators and filters will help assessors identify participants returning from the pathway
- Participants previously receiving ongoing Support at Home services will have their account automatically reinstated

Key message:

Existing pathways to ongoing Support at Home services remain available, helping reduce disruption when participants require ongoing care.

What the change means in practice



Providers

- Plan care across **24 weeks** and **two funding allocations**
- Support participants to **understand the extended pathway**
- **Update service agreements** where required



Older People

- **Automatic release of funding** at week 13
- **No need to reapply, request an SPR** or **undergo reassessment**
- **Continued care with less disruption at a sensitive time**



Assessors

- **Improved identification of End-of-Life assessments and SPRs**
- **Improved prioritisation of End-of-Life related work**
- **No change to eligibility criteria**
- **No change to assessment arrangements for accessing the pathway**

Learn more



Scan QR code to access

End-of-Life Pathway overview

Supporting the sector

Our approach to supporting the change

- We recognise this change requires **preparation, coordination** across the sector
- **Providers, health professionals, assessors** and **sector partners** play an important role
- Our approach focuses on **early engagement, practical support and clear guidance**.
- Support will be provided **before, during and after implementation**
- We will **work with the sector** to support consistent and effective delivery

Supporting the sector

Oct 26 Early sector engagement:
- Sector peaks and partners
- Providers
- Assessment organisations
- Health professionals and health-sector networks
- Older people, families and carers

Oct 26 – Feb 27
Targeted engagement and readiness support:
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Communication materials progressively released
- Sector guidance and readiness support
- Targeted support for transitioning participants

Feb – Mar 27
Final readiness
- Final communications and guidance
- Readiness activities
- Implementation preparation

8 March 27: Commencement
End-of-Life Pathway extension comes into effect

March – May 27
Post-implementation support
- Support and monitoring
- Response to questions and issues
- Further guidance where required

End-of-Life Pathway extension

The role of the GP



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The role primary health stakeholders

Supporting awareness and access to the End-of-Life pathway extension

GPs and nurse practitioners

- Identify eligible patients who may benefit from the End-of-Life Pathway
- Support informed conversations with patients, families and carers about end-of-life care options
- Confirm clinical eligibility and support access through existing referral pathways
- Help eligible patients access support at the right time

Primary Health Networks

- Build awareness of the pathway extension across primary care networks
- Share trusted information and resources with GPs, nurses, hospitals and allied health professionals
- Support local education and engagement activities to improve understanding of the pathway
- Help ensure clinicians understand what is changing and what is not changing.

Key message:

Awareness is essential to ensure eligible older people receive the benefits of the extension

Q & A Session

Asking questions

- Please raise your hand to ask a question.
- Please identify yourself when speaking - your first name and organisation is sufficient.
- Verbal questions only - the chat question is disabled; you will not be able to ask a written question

Questions on notice

- Some questions may need to be taken on notice to follow up out of session.
- These questions will be addressed in the following session or via the meeting summary.

Question and Answer

What is the current duration and funding for the End-of-Life Pathway, and how has this changed?

Currently, the End-of-Life Pathway is 12 weeks duration and provides approximately $25,000 in funding. If the older person needs more support, services may continue for up to 16 weeks if funding remains.

From 8 March 2027, the pathway duration and funding will be extended.

Participants who remain living at home after the initial 12-week period will automatically:

- continue the pathway for a further 12 weeks
- receive additional funding of approximately $25,000.

Question and Answer

Do older people need to get a reassessment or review to receive the extended 12-weeks?

No, the extension will be applied automatically.

Question and Answer

How does the End-of-Life Pathway work with state and territory government programs?

The End-of-Life Pathway is intended to complement state and territory specialist palliative care services. Participants may receive support from both systems at the same time.

The End-of-Life Pathway can be accessed alongside voluntary assisted dying.

Question and Answer

Are there changes to eligibility requirements?

There are no changes to eligibility requirements. Older people are eligible for the pathway if:

- they are aged 65 years or older (or 50 years or older if they are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, or homeless or at risk of homelessness)
- a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner has certified an expected prognosis of approximately 3 months or less to live
- they have an Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Status (AKPS) score of 40 or below.
- Eligibility must be supported by an End-of-Life Pathway Form completed by a medical or nurse practitioner: www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/end-of-life-pathway-form.