



More Choices for a Longer Life – enhanced home care dementia cognition and support

The Government will increase funding for aged care by \$7 billion over five years. The Government will increase the supplement paid to people receiving home care who are living with moderate to severe dementia. The supplement will be increased from 10 per cent of the level of the home care package to 11.5 per cent. The dementia and cognition supplement is currently paid to around 12,700 home care recipients with both a diagnosis of dementia and moderate to severe levels of cognitive impairment.

Why is this important?

The Government is committed to supporting people living with dementia. Dementia affects individuals differently and it can be a complex condition to manage, particularly in a home care environment. Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia and has profound consequences for the health and quality of life of people with the condition – as well as for their carers and friends.

People living with advanced dementia can have more complex needs (medical, behavioural and psychological symptoms) that require specialist support resulting in additional care costs. These costs are largely associated with aged care providers requiring an appropriately skilled and trained workforce to provide this increased level of care.

The dementia and cognition supplement provides important additional support for care recipients and for the carers who support them.

Who will benefit?

The increase will benefit people with moderate to severe dementia, and their families and carers.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$35.4 million from 2018–19 to 2022–23.