



FACT SHEET

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

Aged Care – Aged Care Preparedness

The Australian Government will fund a range of measures to support senior Australians in aged care and home care.

A temporary workforce will be made available in case of a staff shortage in a facility due the impacts of the virus, enabling facilities to maintain care for senior Australians. A support team, skilled in managing urgent health issues, will be deployed as needed to assist those experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.

Aged care providers will be able to access additional workers over and above ordinary workforce costs, in case of an infection.

Infection control training and education will be provided to aged care staff with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to expand oversight of providers with a focus on infection control.

Why is this important?

Older Australians are at an increased risk of developing a serious disease if they contract COVID-19. If not carefully managed, infection can spread through aged care facilities. In the same way these facilities have to take extra precautions against other infectious diseases, such as the flu, they also need to have strong infection controls against COVID-19.

It is important the facilities are properly supported to ensure their staff are well educated in undertaking infection control measures. In some facilities, additional staff will be required to supplement the current workforce. This will also be important in ensuring staffing needs are met for home care.

Who benefits?

Australians living in aged care facilities will benefit from this measure. There are members of the community, such as older people and people with a chronic condition, who are at greater risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19. It is important that they are protected as much as possible.

If aged care providers are supported through outbreaks of COVID-19 the outcomes will be better for their residents, and for the health system as a whole.

How much will this cost?

This measure will cost \$101.2 million over 2019-20 and 2020-21.