



Aged Care – enhancing nursing skills and leadership capability in aged care

Aged care nurses will be supported to enhance their skills, ensuring older Australians receive the best possible care and responds to the Aged Care Royal Commission COVID-19: a special report, by improving infection control.

This Budget provides funding of \$10.8 million to:

- expand the Australian College of Nursing scholarship program, and introduce a completion bonus
- establish an Aged Care Transition to Practice Program
- establish a skills development program for nurses and personal care workers in aged care.

The funding will provide opportunities for the aged care workforce to increase their skills and capabilities – and support them to be well equipped to ensure the care and protection of the people in their care.

Why is this important?

Aged care nurses make up around 14 per cent of Australia’s total nursing workforce and care for more than 1.2 million senior Australians.

Australia’s aged care nurses and personal care workers have been working tirelessly to protect older Australians from COVID-19. It is demanding and has created many challenges to the way care is delivered, including ensuring vital infection prevention and control processes are in place to better protect senior Australians.

Additional opportunities for nurses to train in leadership and clinical skills will enhance their capability to support and supervise personal care workers.

The Aged Care Transition to Practice Program will assist nurses who are new to working in aged care by providing the support needed to develop their knowledge, skills and competence in the delivery of quality aged care services.

Training for personal care workers will ensure that they have the skills required to deliver safe and quality care. Together, the skilled care team will deliver, safe and quality care to our vulnerable senior Australians.

The program, along with the mandating of infection control officers, responds to Recommendation 5 of the Aged Care Royal Commission COVID-19: a special report.

Who will benefit?

This measure will benefit Australia's aged care nurses who will have enhanced access to important training opportunities to boost their skills. Nurses who are interested in pursuing a career in aged care will have the formal support to do so. The older Australians in their care will benefit from the care nurses provide. Aged care services will benefit by having a larger pool of nurses to employ.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$10.8 million over five years from 2020–21.