



## Aged Care – Serious Incident Response Scheme

Senior Australians will have access to improved, safer aged care services through the Australian Government's Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) for residential aged care, which is of increased importance due to COVID-19. This also addresses one of the recommendations in the Aged Care Royal Commission COVID-19 special report.

The scheme will ensure providers actively manage risk and deliver continuous improvements to ensure residents are safe, protected and receiving high quality care.

This additional funding of \$29.8 million from 2020–21 will:

- protect older Australians, by responding to reports of serious incidents and working with providers to reduce future incidents of abuse and neglect
- ensure a risk-based approach is taken to regulation of the aged care sector
- equip the Aged Care and Quality Safety Commission with the resources it needs to hold providers to account.

This additional funding builds on the earlier investments and actions in previous budgets, to establish the reporting system of abuse or serious incidents in aged care facilities. The Government's total investment in the scheme to date is \$26.3 million, which includes \$23.0 million announced in June 2020.

### Why is this important?

There are about 242,612 Australians living in residential aged care. It is important that aged care residents are safe and protected at all times. Residents and their families should rightfully expect that they are receiving quality care and protection in what is their home.

The Government is committed to strengthening arrangements to protect aged care residents from the risk of abuse.

### Who will benefit?

Older Australians living in residential aged care will be better protected under the scheme.

### How much will this cost?

This will cost \$29.8 million from 2020–21 to 2023–24.