



Governance (Pillar 5 of the Royal Commission response) – Strengthening regional stewardship of aged care

In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, the Australian Government will invest \$13.4 million to strengthen governance of aged care by creating a local network of Department of Health aged care staff. This will enable the Government to focus on improving senior Australians' local experience of aged care services, and ensure that national planning and policy development is informed by an understanding of local issues and needs.

The local network will undertake a number of functions to improve senior Australians' experience of local aged care services. These include: analysing local needs; supporting workforce planning; building the capacity and capability of providers; monitoring the effectiveness of the new care finders and single assessment workforces; and supporting best-practice and innovation.

The initial rollout phase will commence in July 2021 in 8 Primary Health Network (PHN) regions (below), and nationwide rollout will be subject to evaluation:

- Adelaide
- Australian Capital Territory
- Country Western Australia
- Eastern Melbourne
- Gold Coast
- Northern Territory
- South-Eastern New South Wales, and
- Tasmania.

Why is this important?

Leadership and coordination of aged care is fundamental both nationally and locally to creating better outcomes for senior Australians. Within local networks, the Australian Government can locally support aged care providers to make the transformational changes needed to ensure they provide the highest quality of aged care to senior

Australians, and drive improvements in local delivery of aged care services such as care finders and aged care assessments to senior Australians.

It means the Government can be focused on continually improving outcomes for senior Australians, through a localised, bottom-up approach to system management in aged care. It will also enhance the links between Government, aged care providers and local workforces, senior Australians and their communities.

This will result in a better aged care experience for senior Australians from the assessment process through to receiving quality aged care services.

The introduction of this regional network will also create employment opportunities in regional Australia for staff who will engage at a local level with state government health departments and PHNs, to support better on the ground coordination with other service systems.

Who will benefit?

Senior Australians will benefit when the planning and delivery of aged care truly reflects local needs. They will benefit from the boost to the quality of local aged care services, and from better integration with other sectors at the local level.

There will also be local benefits in regional Australia with the creation of new jobs, which also supports the Government's decentralisation agenda.

This measure supports *Recommendations 8, 41, and 54* of the Royal Commission's final report.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$13.4 million in 2021–22.