



Home Care (Pillar 1 of the Royal Commission response) – Immediate investment to address critical need

In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, the Australian Government will invest over \$6.5 billion to address the critical need for home based care for senior Australians – the single largest investment in home based care ever.

The investment includes:

- \$6.5 billion to release 80,000 additional Home Care Packages (40,000 in 2021–22 and an additional 40,000 in 2022–23). It means those currently waiting for a Home Care Package will get access to the care they are assessed as needing. By June 2023, there will be 275,600 Home Care Packages available to senior Australians every year, and
- a further \$36.7 million in the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, to increase resourcing for quality and safety checks for Home Care Packages. This will enable more than 750 additional Quality Reviews and Assessment Contacts from 2022–23 to 2023–25.

Why is this important?

Home care provides senior Australians with support to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Increasingly, senior Australians are seeking support to stay at home longer, rather than moving to residential aged care.

Funding for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission will ensure the Commission can increase its compliance activity to match the increase in Home Care Packages. This will ensure the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has the capability to address any failures in care by providers of Home Care Packages, ensuring senior Australians are receiving safe, high quality Home Care services. This will include conducting more than 750 additional Quality Reviews and Assessments Contacts from 2022–23 to 2023–25.

These measures support *Recommendation 39* of the Royal Commission's final report.

Who will benefit?

This measure will provide access to all those currently waiting for a package in line with their assessed care needs by June 2023. As at 18 April 2021, there were 86,797 senior Australians waiting for a Home Care Package at their assessed level, most of whom already have either a lower level Home Care Package or are eligible to get assistance through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

Additional resourcing for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission will protect the integrity of our home care system and the safety of home care recipients as the system grows.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$6.5 billion over 4 years, from 2021–22.