



Residential aged care quality and safety (Pillar 3 of the Royal Commission response) – Strengthening provider quality

In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, the Australian Government is investing \$32 million to strengthen the accountability and capability of the aged care sector. Investment includes:

- \$24.7 million for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) to undertake an additional 1,500 site audits in residential aged care in 2021–22 (up from the 600 audits scheduled for that period)
- \$7.3 million to strengthen regulation of restraint (restrictive practices) and enhance behaviour support capability in residential aged care, through:
 - introducing legislation from 1 July 2021 to strengthen the regulation of restraint, and to ensure these practices are only used as a last resort. Aged care providers must use alternative behaviour support strategies prior to using restraint
 - appointing a Senior Practitioner to the ACQSC to lead education of aged care providers and General Practitioners (GPs) in the use of restraint. The Senior Practitioner will also provide senior Australians and their families with independent review mechanisms through complaints, serious incident reports and compliance processes to ensure aged care providers are meeting their legislative obligations, and
 - provide funding to extend the ACQSC Pharmacy Program to 2025.

Why is this important?

The Australian Government is committed to building a culture of dignity and respect for senior Australians through the entire aged care sector. Quality and safety are critical to delivering on this commitment.

The reforms to quality and safety within aged care will be a significant task going forward. These measures are in response to some of the immediate priorities to deliver better experiences and outcomes for individuals receiving aged care, and to restore trust and confidence in the aged care sector.

This measure implements in full or in part *Recommendations 2, 8 and 17* of the Royal Commission's final report.

Who will benefit?

These measures will contribute towards improving the quality of care for the 1.3 million Australians who currently receive aged care services each year.

The Australian population places value in aged care quality and safety, and these measures are designed to drive cultural change across the sector to align aged care with community expectations.

Senior Australians and their families will find these measures improve the quality of care they receive. In particular, stronger regulation of, and communication around, restraint will deliver improvements to their safety and quality of life.

As a result of this measure, quality of care delivered by residential aged care providers will be closely examined as the ACQSC undertake additional audits in 2021–22.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$32 million over 4 years, from 2021–22.