



## Workforce (Pillar 4 of the Royal Commission response) – National Care and Support Worker Regulation

In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, the Australian Government will invest \$105.6 million from 2021–22 to 2024–25 to implement a care and support sector code of conduct (the Code) and a nationally consistent pre-employment screening process across the aged care, veterans' care and disability support sectors. Changes will come into effect from 1 July 2022.

A single register of workers who have been either cleared, or excluded during the screening process, will be established to support employment decisions across the care and support sectors. This will enable screened workers to access employment across all sectors, improving workforce mobility and reducing red tape for employers.

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission will be responsible for enforcing the Code for aged care and veterans' affairs. The National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission will continue its existing enforcement role.

### Why is this important?

This measure will strengthen regulatory oversight of an estimated 366,000 aged and veterans' care workers. It will improve the identification of unsuitable workers and, where necessary, prevent them from working in the aged, disability or veterans' care sectors, or moving between them.

Any substantiated breaches of the Code will be considered during the screening process, and may result in a worker being prevented from operating across the entire care and support sector.

This addresses *Recommendation 77* of the Royal Commission's final report.

### Who will benefit?

Senior Australians accessing aged care and veterans accessing care services will benefit from increased protection from unsuitable workers. This will build their, and their families', trust and confidence that the system is delivering high quality and safe care.

The care workforce will benefit from being able to work across sectors with less red tape. Ensuring continuity of service and the necessary workforce supply is important especially in areas where workers operate across sectors. It will also ensure workers in the sector have had their suitability consistently assessed, and will lead to greater value and respect for this professional workforce.

Providers will have access to a national database of screened workers and they will also have greater assurances around the ongoing suitability of their staff through a continuous monitoring system and enforcement of the Code.

**How much will this cost?**

The Australian Government is investing \$105.6 million over 4 years from 2021–22.