



Governance – Delivering a strong regulatory framework and growing community engagement

The Australian Government has implemented the first year of its \$18.8 billion, five year aged care reform program, in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The once in a generation reforms are based on five pillars – home care, residential aged care services and sustainability, residential quality and safety, workforce and governance – to deliver respect, care and dignity for senior Australians.

The Australian Government is improving and delivering quality, accessible information that meets the needs of all Australians.

As part of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety response, the Australian Government committed \$698.3 million to aged care governance reforms.

The Australian Government is investing \$8.1 million to continue driving improvements and to deliver accessible aged care information that meets the needs of all Australians. This new commitment will bring the total funding for aged care to more than \$129 billion over four years.

Regional Stewardship of Aged Care

Department of Health aged care staff located in state and territory offices, across eight Primary Health Network (PHN) regions, are engaging with local providers and stakeholders to ensure local issues and needs are considered in national plans and support implementation of the aged care reforms at a local level.

\$6.1 million over six months, will continue the initial rollout of regionally focused teams to:

- enhance local community engagement
- lead the aged care sector, on the ground, through the reforms, and
- support planning at a local level.

The Government is committed to ensuring community trust in the aged care system and building local, collaborative services for senior Australians.

Modern regulatory framework for aged care

This year, the Government commits an additional investment of \$5.4 million to enable the design of a new, modern regulatory framework for aged care that puts senior Australians first, is rights-based and risk-proportionate. The new framework will be developed in consultation with the sector including Senior Australians, their families and their carers.

The framework will underpin the development of the new Support at Home program and the new Aged Care Act.

Why is this important?

Improving access and connection to aged care support services and planning contributes to meaningful change in Australia's aged care system.

The 2022–23 Budget funding will enhance critical support to aged care reform, consolidating investment announced in the 2021–22 Budget and 2021–22 MYEFO processes. These measures respond in part or fully to *Recommendations 8, 41 and 54* of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Who will benefit?

Senior Australians, their families and carers will have access to information and direction to help them plan for the future, and to navigate the aged care system.

Senior Australians, their families and carers will have the safety and quality of the services they access supported by regulation that puts senior Australians first and is rights-based.

Existing and new aged care providers will have a modern, risk-proportionate regulatory framework.

The Australian community will have confidence in the quality and safety of aged care, where and when they need it.

Australia's aged care reforms are expansive and will impact virtually every aspect of the sector. The Government is working closely with the sector, including providers and workers, peaks and advocacy groups, senior Australians, their families and carers, to engage, inform and implement the system changes.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government will invest \$8.1 million over one year.