



Home care – supporting senior Australians to remain independent for longer

The Australian Government has implemented the first year of an \$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.

As part of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety response, the Australian Government committed \$7.7 billion to home care reforms, including 80,000 additional home care packages (40,000 in 2021–22 and 2022–23) and \$10.8 million to support the design of the new Support at Home program.

The 40,000 home care packages in 2022–23 will enable around 275,600 people to access a package at 30 June 2023. This is around 215,000 more people than 30 June 2013 (60,308).

The new program will provide senior Australians with more personalised care plans for their individual needs, such as dementia. It will simplify access to care, by bringing together a range of services which are currently provided the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), Home Care Packages and Short Term Restorative Care, and include referrals to residential respite programs, which currently support almost one million senior Australians.

Importantly, senior Australians are involved in the design of the program. It aims to provide equitable access to services that best meet the changing needs of senior Australians. Program design activities are underway, including:

- Research to:
 - understand the aged care needs of senior Australians and their informal carers (2,500 aged care recipients participated in a data study)
 - explore attitudes and behaviour of aged care residents and recipients, carers and providers, and how to best to provide support in the new system, and
 - support the sector’s readiness for change to the new program.

- Release of a Support at Home Program Overview Paper on the proposed design supporting consultation.
- Community consultation on the program, including:
 - co-design on care management with stakeholders, and
 - service list, price list, funding model, schemes for goods, equipment, assistive technologies and home modifications, and the evaluation strategy.
- Test the new Integrated Assessment Tool, encompassing the assessment process and assessment outcomes.
- This year, the Government commits an additional \$5.4 million to enable the design of a new and modern regulatory framework for aged care, in consultation with the sector. The framework will provide effective regulatory guidance, underpinning development of the new Support at Home program and the updated Aged Care Act.

The aged care sector – including senior Australians, their families and carers, aged care providers and workers, assessors and aged care professionals – will continue to have opportunities to contribute to the design of the new program.

Why is this important?

The new Support at Home program will start on 1 July 2023 and will help senior Australians, including people with complex needs, to get care and support at home.

The Government is committed to consulting on critical elements of the Support at Home program to ensure the design meets the sector's requirements and can respond to the changing needs of senior Australians.

This measure responds in full or in part to *Recommendations 25, 28, 30-36, 40-42, 72, 117-119, and 124* of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Who will benefit?

Senior Australians will experience a significant shift in the quality and safety of their home care, resulting in improved health and wellbeing outcomes. The new Support at Home program will allow people to choose their providers and the services they need – including allied health – and change services as their needs change.

At the end of 2021, 217,724 senior Australians had access to a home care package and 825,383 received support through CHSP.

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.

Existing and new providers and residential respite aged care facilities will have a modern, regulatory framework.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$5.4 million over one year.

This is in addition to the \$7.7 billion the Australian Government invested in home care in the 2021–22 Budget and 2021–22 MYEFO.