



Growing and supporting the aged care workforce

This information sheet is for people who work in aged care. It explains what aged care reforms mean for you, and how you can help design changes to aged care.

About the reforms

We are making major changes to aged care that will benefit all Australians.

As a result, senior Australians will have greater choice and control, services that respect and meet their needs, and support to stay independent as they age.

Improvements are part of a 5 year \$18.8 billion reform package that also address recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Wages

To build a workforce with the right skills and qualities to meet the changing needs of senior Australians, aged care workers need to be valued through fair wages.

The Fair Work Commission is currently considering wage increases for aged care workers, and is due to make a decision in July 2022.

Senior Australians need a skilled, diverse, compassionate and valued workforce who will provide safe and high quality care

Growing the workforce

The *A Life Changing Life* campaign is helping to grow the workforce across the aged care, disability and veterans' sectors. Visit careandsupportjobs.gov.au.

The Aged Care Transition to Practice Program is attracting newly graduated registered nurses into aged care.

There are scholarships for nursing students who want to work in aged care, and scholarships to help nurses get postgraduate qualifications.

There's an extra 33,800 training places for people who want to work in aged care (as well as existing workers who want to increase their skills) through *JobTrainer*.

Vocational and education training (VET) students can get work placements to help them become personal care workers in home care.

Dedicated teaching spaces and partnerships with university rural health departments are training nursing and allied health students in aged care, through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program.

From 1 July 2022, there will be a national register of screened aged care staff, which will make it easier for providers to recruit, and for staff to apply for roles across Australia.

Bonus payments and training

Registered nurses who work for the same aged care provider for at least 6 months can get the Aged Care Registered Nurses Payment.

Registered nurses in rural and remote areas can get an additional annual payment.

There are bonus payments for nurses who take on responsibility for work and clinical placements for aged care students.

More training is being rolled out for aged care workers in the areas of palliative care, dementia care, and infection prevention and control.

Funding for providers will support nurses and personal care workers to access online training to update their skills as part of continuing professional development.

Find out more and get involved

There are more changes on the way that will transform aged care in Australia.

We would like to hear from you, because your voice matters.

You can find out more and get involved at the Aged Care Engagement Hub.

Website www.agedcareengagement.health.gov.au

Phone **1800 200 422** (My Aged Care's freecall phone line)

For translating and interpreting services, call **131 450** and ask for My Aged Care on **1800 200 422**.

To use the National Relay Service, visit nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs or call **1800 555 660**.