Reforming aged care

Our goal is for all Australians to be able to access high-quality and safe aged care, where and when they need it.

What we’re doing

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety final report challenges us to create better aged care services and a better standard of care for older Australians.

The Australian Government is committed to meeting this challenge and making changes to aged care that deliver security, dignity, quality and humanity in care for every older Australian across our aged care system.

We’re implementing practical measures to ensure our aged care system meets the needs of older Australians.

Our plan for aged care will see

* A registered nurse in every aged care home, on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
* Mandating an average of 215 minutes of care per day for people in residential aged care.
* A pay rise for aged care workers.
* Better food for residents.
* Improved transparency and accountability for how government funding is spent to deliver care and services to older Australians.

In addition, there will be a cap on how much home care users can be charged in administration and management fees by providers, and monthly reporting directly to users on where their money is going.

All older Australians will get the care they deserve, not just for essential medical treatment, but also the basic things like help to shower, get dressed and eat a meal, restoring dignity for residents.

What we’ve delivered so far

* New local, personalised help for older Australians including in-person help at 69 Services Australia service centres, care finders for vulnerable and socially isolated people and EnCOMPASS: Multicultural Aged Care Connector Program for culturally and linguistically diverse older people and their families and carers.
* New representative voices for older Australians with the Council of Elders.
* Initiatives to support providers to grow a skilled workforce including extra training places, scholarships and payments for eligible registered nurses.
* More home care support including more packages released and reduced wait times.
* Improved quality and safety for people living in residential care including extra funding for improved care and services, especially food and nutrition.
* Business support for aged care providers including the Workforce Advisory Service for free, independent and confidential advice to help with workforce planning.

What’s coming up

More changes are on the way that will offer tangible benefits to Australians, such as:

* person-centred care that improves quality of life
* support to live independent and meaningful lives
* better pay rates for direct care workers and nurses
* a skilled, diverse and compassionate workforce
* adequate coverage of services to meet needs across Australia, including local, personalised help to understand and access aged care
* more informed choice and control over individual needs
* specialist support for people with dementia
* accessible information and independent advocacy
* culturally safe services that support diverse experiences and backgrounds
* respite and support for carers and families
* funding for providers that puts older Australians first.

Let’s change aged care together

We all need to work together to do everything we can to achieve a better aged care system.

We invite Australians to continue to engage with us about the aged care reforms.

To sign up for engagement activities or to find out more, visit the Aged Care Engagement Hub.