



Australian Government
Department of Health

Commonwealth Home Support Programme – Information Update

CHSP funding extension from 2020 to 2022

The *More Choices for a Longer Life* measure will extend the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) for two years from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022. Extending CHSP by two years will provide funding certainty for CHSP providers to continue delivering entry level support to a large number of frail older Australians.

The department will advise existing CHSP providers about the process for implementing the funding extension in coming months. CHSP providers will be kept informed via various channels including email notifications, newsletters, webinars and their Funding Arrangement Managers as planning for the extension progresses.

The CHSP remains the entry level aged care program offering support services to frail older people to enable them to continue living at home. The current CHSP grant agreements and reporting requirements remain in place until 30 June 2020.

As much notice as possible will be provided in the event of any new or changed requirements for 2020-21 to 2021-22.

CHSP Growth Funding

On 2 October 2018, the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister Wyatt announced \$100 million in growth funding over two years for a select number of existing CHSP service providers from 2018-19 with a strong record of delivery. Growth funding is important to enable the sector to respond to the changing needs of CHSP clients and align with growth in Australia's population. The Department of Health (the department) analysed current funding and population data and determined that funding for certain service types should be prioritised.

Nationally, 860 existing CHSP providers accepted this growth funding across all five identified service types. Payments were distributed in January 2019.

Funding allocated to the service types nationally was:

- \$32.3 million to domestic assistance
- \$3.6 million to home maintenance
- \$2.8 million to home modifications
- \$2.7 million to meals
- \$8.5 million to transport

The department is investigating further growth funding options for the 2019-20 financial year.

Home modifications funding

On 17 January 2019, Minister Wyatt announced \$15 million in funding for existing CHSP providers delivering home modifications services. Increasing access to home modifications services may reduce or delay the need for access to higher levels of care.

208 CHSP providers delivering these services have been contacted directly by their Funding Arrangement Managers and offered one-off funding (ranging from \$1,000 to over \$350,000) in line with their current funding levels. This funding will allow existing CHSP home modification providers to deliver changes to a client's home to increase or maintain the person's functional independence so they can continue to live and move safely about the house. This includes supports such as hand rails and simple bathroom modifications. It is expected payments will be this financial year for providers who have accepted the offer.

Innovation funding

On 21 December 2018 an Expression of Interest (EOI) process opened seeking proposals from organisations to trial or use innovative approaches for the delivery of CHSP services. EOI applications closed on 1 February 2019. The department is currently assessing a large number of applications and will invite those organisations considered suitable to apply for a Grant Opportunity. Applications were received from both existing CHSP providers and new organisations.

Wellness and reablement report

As part of the current CHSP grant agreement, providers are expected to submit an annual wellness report to the department. Providers have submitted their first online report.

In late 2018 the Department received a total of 1,025 wellness and reablement report submissions from CHSP service providers in all states and territories except in Victoria (given Victorian providers are yet to transition to the new CHSP grant agreement with this requirement).

The initial report has provided the department with a snapshot of how providers have implemented wellness and reablement approaches in their service delivery and what supports they may need in the future. It also gives the department an opportunity to identify any gaps.

Initial results are encouraging, particularly with around 79% of providers having wellness practices embedded in their CHSP service delivery. Over half the providers feel they would benefit from additional support. Some of the common challenges of service providers include:

- A lack of understanding of wellness and reablement by clients, carers and their families, and
- An in-grained dependency on services by clients and reluctance to adjust to a wellness and reablement approach.

The most common service types reported as not aligning with a wellness and reablement approach are: transport, home maintenance and meals. The department is finalising a summary report for providers. Service providers will be notified once it will become available online.

Information and requirements for the next report due in October 2019 are being considered and service providers will be notified once the arrangements are finalised.

Home Care Package clients accessing CHSP

In general, CHSP services should not be provided to people who are also receiving other similar services, including a Home Care Package. The care needs of a client receiving a Home Care Package should be addressed through their package funds and any support must be paid for out of their individualised Home Care Package budget. This ensures that the CHSP is able to provide entry-level services to as many frail, older people as possible.

HCP clients can purchase additional support services above the value of their package, but these services would be paid for on a full cost recovery basis and would not be provided at a government subsidised rate, unless the HCP client meets one of the four defined circumstances. The additional CHSP services will not be charged to the client's individualised home care package budget, however, the client will be expected to contribute to the cost of these services in line with the CHSP provider's client contribution policy.

A recent change is the inclusion of a fourth circumstance where CHSP services can be provided to HCP clients. In all four circumstances the additional CHSP services must only be provided on a short-term, time limited basis, which should be monitored and reviewed by the client's most recent assessment service. The four defined circumstances include:

1. For clients on a Level 1 or 2 home care package: where the client's home care package budget is already fully allocated, the client can access additional, short-term or episodic Allied Health and Therapy services or Nursing services from the CHSP, where these specific services may assist the client to get back on their feet after a setback (such as a fall).
2. For clients on a Level 1 to 4 home care package: where the client's home care package budget is already fully allocated and a carer requires it, a home care package client can access additional planned respite services under the CHSP (on a short-term basis).
3. For clients on a Level 1 to 4 home care package: in an emergency (such as when a carer is not able to maintain their caring role), where the client's home care package budget is already fully allocated, additional services under the broader CHSP can be obtained on an emergency or short-term basis. These instances must be time limited, monitored and reviewed.
4. For clients on an interim Level 1 or 2 package who are waiting for a Level 3 or 4 home care package; where the client's home care package budget is already fully allocated, a client can access additional home modifications from the CHSP. You will note this is a recent update to the CHSP Programme Manual.

All home care package clients must be assessed through My Aged Care to receive these additional CHSP services. The assessment should be undertaken by the assessment organisation that undertook the most recent assessment of the client, which in most instances will be an ACAT. The additional services must be provided in line with the four circumstances described above and at an entry-level of support consistent with services provided under the CHSP.

In addition, CHSP service providers should only supply additional CHSP services to home care package clients where they have capacity to do so without disadvantaging other current or potential CHSP clients - that is, CHSP services should prioritise people who need CHSP support but do not have access to other support services over people who are already in receipt of a home care package.

Where a new client has been assessed and approved as eligible for a home care package but is waiting to receive that package, the client may be eligible to receive some services under

the CHSP as an interim arrangement, but only to an entry-level of support consistent with the CHSP, not at the level of support of the home care package they are eligible for.

Registration of clients on My Aged Care

Under the current 2018-20 CHSP Grant Agreement, CHSP service providers will be required to assist the department to collect data on all existing CHSP clients not registered on My Aged Care. The department is considering a range of options for the data collection process, with the aim of providing the most streamlined and efficient approach for service providers. Service providers will be informed of the process and timeframe for completing this exercise once these details have been finalised.

In the interim, providers are **not** required to refer their existing clients without a My Aged Care client record to My Aged Care for an assessment, unless their care needs have changed. Where the needs of a client have changed, including where there is a need for a new service type or a significant increase to their existing services, the client must be referred to My Aged Care for an assessment before any additional services can be provided.

All new clients must be referred to My Aged Care for an assessment to discuss their aged care needs and have a client record created.

CHSP and the Charter of Aged Care Rights

A new easy-to-read Charter of Aged Care Rights will take effect from 1 July 2019. The new charter provides the same rights to all aged care recipients across all forms of Australian Government subsidised aged care.

Additional information for providers will be available in the coming months. The charter is available on the department's website at <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/quality/single-charter-of-aged-care-rights>.