

Reforms in HomeCare – Webinar Summary

to view the 30th June webinar, visit: <https://publish.viostream.com/app/s-dgjj3gh>

SPEAKERS: Greg Hunt MP: Minister for Health & Aged Care & Senator Richard Colbeck: Minister for Senior Australians & Aged Care Services

- ✚ \$17.5 billion total investment in aged care
- ✚ Additional 80,000 home care (HC) packages in next 2 years - 40,000 to commence roll out July 2021
- ✚ Sept 2021: change way in which payments delivered to HC providers - objective is to stop build-up of unspent funds on HC providers' books
- ✚ \$800 million in CHSP respite services - just over 8,000 new respite places
- ✚ Connection of My Aged Care Assessment to DSS Carers Gateway
- ✚ \$270 million into creating new ways of accessing aged care: every [Services Australia Service Centre](#) will have ability to provide aged care information + 70 service centres with specialist aged care officers to provide more intensive support
- ✚ Australian network of 500 Local Care Finders to assist individuals to navigate the system (replace current Navigators program)
- ✚ July 2023: launch of new **Support at Home Program** – replace CHSP, HC packages, short term restorative care & residential respite. Objective to ensure that everyone currently on the national priority system will be able to get a package at their assessed level.
 - Aim of new program is to provide a streamlined approach to home care so that individuals can receive the care they need without having to move between multiple programs as their needs change. Currently finalising the design and engaging with consumers and providers ([Online Survey to provide your input](#)) on how the program will operate.

Key elements of new **Support at Home Program**:

- Single assessment workforce - assessments will result in tailored support plans that go beyond 4 basic packages & specify service needs. This includes new client assessment tool & classification system - currently being developed through major data study.
- Specifically Indigenous organisations delivering assessments to increase uptake of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders accessing aged care
- Reablement focused assessment process – providing advice, strategies & techniques for maintaining independence, then check in 6-8 weeks later to see how the person is going – it may not involve any services at all
- For clients accessing only 1-2 simple services, ensure improved provider choice & better service access
- Potential for higher levels of support at home to give more options for clients who would otherwise have to go into residential care.
- Care management to be a specific service type to ensure clients' needs are regularly monitored
- New program focus on reablement

- ✚ Launch of **Home Care Workforce Support Program** – program to be delivered in 2 phases;
 - First phase is underway - involves DESE who are delivering a range of activities to support recruitment of home care workers
 - Second phase - grant program which will run over 2- yrs from 2021-22. Organisations that receive grants will be responsible for assisting home care providers to attract, train & retain 13,000 personal care workers to the sector.
 - 33,800 new training places (expansion of the JobTrainer fund) for new & existing workers to undertake Certificate III qualifications or higher
 - Boosting capacity of providers to ensure that they're able to recognise diversity within their service provision, and skill up or access training & support
 - Last 3 months, 5,000 people have joined the workforce through new workforce program
- ✚ Investment in Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission to detect HC providers who might need assistance meeting their obligations
- ✚ Further develop Pricing Transparency Agenda to allow people to more easily compare prices across different types of services
- ✚ Consult sector re CHSP payment in arrears measure - aim is to introduce a more rigorous CHSP funding arrangement that allows consumers to choose, & paying in arrears is first step towards that
- ✚ Substitute Ability Study to look at both residential & clients in home care, to determine how people could safely & cost effectively be looked after at home at higher care needs
- ✚ Increase in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander aged care services & flexible aged care services

Finally, below is a pictorial outline of the Government's plans

