Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Aged care reforms: an overview for GPs

September 2026

Presented by Jody Niven

OFFICIAL

I pay my respects to the Whadjuk Noongar people, the traditional owners of the land on which I stand today.

The Local Network



Northern Territory: Darwin

Queensland: Brisbane and Cairns

NSW: Sydney, Wollongong, Dubbo and Coffs Harbour

ACT: Canberra

Victoria: Melbourne and Bendigo

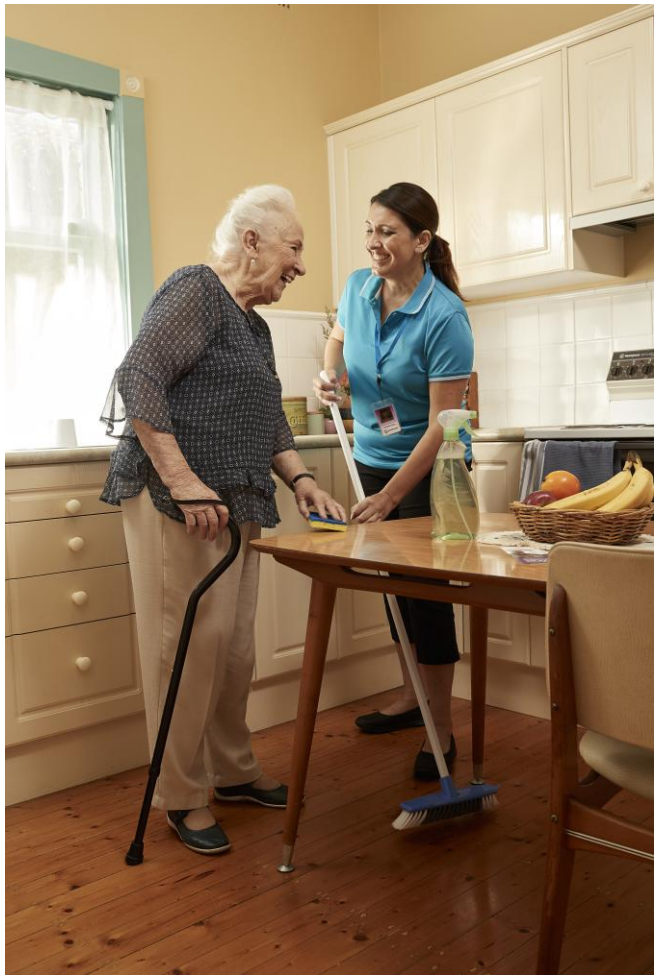
Tasmania: Hobart and Launceston

Western Australia
Perth and Bunbury

South Australia
Adelaide and Port Augusta

Changes to aged care

- The Australian Government and the sector have made significant changes to aged care in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
- The new Aged Care Act and Support at Home program commenced on 1 November 2025.
- Under the new Aged Care Act, older people must be treated with respect and are presumed to have the ability to make decisions. If they want help to make decisions, they can choose to have a registered supporter.
- Becoming a registered supporter does not provide a person with decision-making authority for the older person. A registered supporter's role is to support the older person to make their own decisions.



Single Assessment System

- The Single Assessment System brings together:
  - One assessment workforce
  - One assessment tool (Integrated Assessment Tool – IAT)
  - New dedicated First Nations assessment organisations.
- Assessments now determine eligibility, support plan development and funding classifications and pathways
- Decisions are made under the new Aged Care Act, using a rights-based approach

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)

- Provides entry level support for older people who need some help to stay ay home.
- CHSP grant funding will continue to 30 June 2029.
- The Department will begin consultation this year on a long-term design for a block-funded, entry-level program that:
  - is sustainable and better integrated with Support at Home
  - ensures fair and equitable contributions to home care costs
  - supports early intervention services to reduce system pressures

Support at Home



On 1 November 2025 the new Support at Home (SaH) Program replaced the Home Care Packages (HCP) Program and the Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Program.

Ongoing services

8 classifications for ongoing services and 4 classifications for transitioned HCP care recipients.

Each classification will have a quarterly budget.

Three new short-term pathways

1. Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT-HM) scheme

2. Restorative Care Pathway

3. End-of-Life Pathway

Participant contributions

Participants will pay contributions based on:

- an assessment of their income and assets, **and**
- the type of services they receive

Service pricing

Prices must be reasonable and include the entire cost of delivering a service.

Service prices must be published on the My Aged Care website.

Care management

Care management services are delivered by a care partner.

10% of a participant's ongoing budget will be allocated to care management.

Support at Home: Service list & pricing

- The Support at Home service list has three service categories:
  - Clinical supports
  - Independence
  - Everyday living
- Participants will have access to an approved list of services, based on the outcome of their aged care assessment.
- Providers are expected to keep their service prices clear, current and available online on both myagedcare.gov.au and their own websites.

Service categories	Service Type
Clinical supports	Nursing care
	Allied health and other therapeutic services
	Nutrition
	Care Management
	Restorative care management
Independence	Personal care * **(To move to clinical supports 1 October 2026)**
	Social support and community engagement
	Therapeutic service for independent living
	Respite
	Transport
	Assistive technology and home modifications
Everyday living	Domestic assistance
	Home maintenance and repairs
	Meals

Support at home: Short-term pathways

- **Assistive Technology & Home Modifications (AT-HM):** is designed to support older people by providing separate funding for products, equipment, and home modifications that help them maintain independence and safety in their homes and community.
  - Assistive Technology and Home Modifications list
- **Restorative Care:** focuses on early intervention, providing intensive clinical care and support to help people maintain or regain their function—and ideally, prevent further decline.
  - Restorative Care Pathway Clinical Guidelines
- **End-of-Life:** supports participants who have been diagnosed with 3 months or less to live and wish to remain at home, by providing more funding to access in-home aged care services.
  - End-of-Life Pathway – fact sheet for doctors and nurse practitioners

Support at Home: Ongoing service classifications

- 8 classifications for ongoing services
- 4 additional classifications for transitioned HCP care recipients.
- Classification amounts are divided into a quarterly budget.
- Maximum accrual of $1,000 or 10% of quarterly budget between quarters.

Classification	Quarterly Budget*	Annual Amount*
1	$2,752.50	$11,010.01
2	$4,112.84	$16,451.35
3	$5,634.20	$22,536.81
4	$7,617.13	$30,468.51
5	$10,182.38	$40,729.53
6	$12,341.32	$49,365.27
7	$14,915.00	$59,660.00
8	$20,034.28	$80,137.12

*Current as of 1 July 2026. Amounts include 10% for care management and are indexed on 1 July each year.

Support at home: Participant contributions

- Participants will only pay individual contribution rates for services received
- The individual contribution rate participants need to pay will be dependent on their pension status and the service category of the services they have received.
- If a participant Is unable to pay their aged care contribution, they can apply for hardship assistance, through Services Australia. If granted hardship assistance, the Australian Government will pay some or all of a participant's care costs directly to their aged care provider.

Pension Status	Service Category Participant Contribution Rates		
	Clinical supports	Independence	Everyday living
Full pensioner	0%	5%	17.5%
Part pensioner and Commonwealth Seniors Health Care (CSHC) holder	0%	5%– 50% depending on income and assets	17.5% - 80% depending on income and assets
Self-funded non-CSHC holder and/or means not disclosed	0%	50%	80%

Residential care

- Residential aged care places are now allocated to people, not providers.
- The Australian Government funds a range of aged care homes across Australia. This means affordable care and support services can be accessed by those who need it.
- How much an older person pays towards their care depends on the place they choose, an assessment of their income and assets (means assessment), and any optional goods and services they select after they enter care.



Dementia: **Support and respite programs**

National Dementia Support Program

- Information and support for people living with dementia, their carers and families
- Delivered by Dementia Australia 24/7 Helpline 1800 100 500.

Improving respite care for people living with dementia and their carers

- Combined respite care (people with dementia and carer)
- Carer education and peer support
- Training and resources for the aged care sector.

Hospital to Aged Care dementia support

- Supports people living with dementia to transition from hospital to aged care
- Available in selected locations.

Other Support and Navigation Services

Aged Care Specialist Officer (ACSO)

- Test for eligibilities
- Refer to assessment organisations
- Financial information about aged care services
- Connect to local support services
- Face-to-face or virtual or Phone:1800 227 475
- More info here

Financial Information Service Officer (FISO)

- Informed decisions about your finances
- Free impartial confidential service
- Provision of info, tools and resources
- More info: here

Advocare

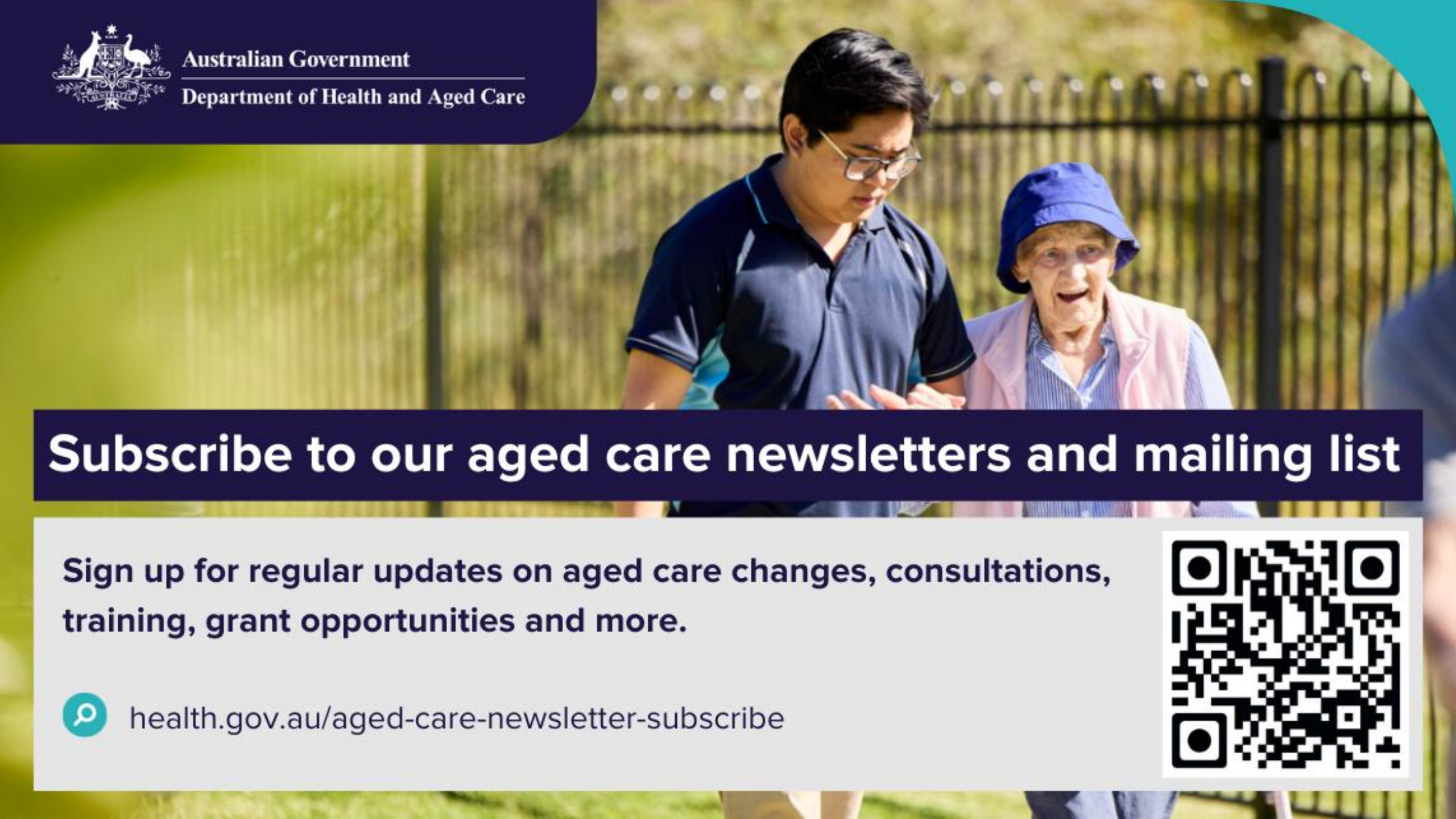
- Advocates and supports older people in WA
- Provides independent, free confidential advocacy and navigation services
- Delivers Care Finder, NACAP, ACVVS, Elder Abuse Helpline
- A ‘no wrong door’ approach and if unable to support, will refer to other agencies/organisations with person’s consent
- Phone: 1800 655 566 or visit

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Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Thank you

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