

Media Release

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Aged care reforms signal relief for sector

VMCH has welcomed the long-awaited introduction of the new Aged Care Act into Parliament.

Touted as ‘once in a generation reforms’ by the Australian Government, the \$5.6 billion aged care package addresses recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care and will help ensure the sustainability of the sector into the future.

The reforms, introduced 12 September, include a \$4.3 billion investment in the new Support at Home program, to come into effect on 1 July 2025. Residential aged care will also get the support it so desperately needs, in large part thanks to the introduction of personal contributions to care.

VMCH Acting CEO David Williamson says the for-purpose organisation has long echoed its peak body [Catholic Health Australia](#)’s calls that those who can afford it, should contribute towards the cost of accommodation and daily living expenses.

“We are thrilled that we will now hopefully be fully equipped to meet the tsunami of need coming our way. The fact that this reform has gained bipartisan support from the Coalition reflects the dire need for change – it cannot come soon enough.”

Highlights for residential aged care:

- Larger means-tested contributions from new residents
- For every \$1 an older person contributes to their residential aged care, the government will contribute an average of \$3.30
- A *no worse off* principle means people already living in aged care won't make a greater contribution to their care
- A higher maximum room price, indexed over time
- The treatment of the family home won't change.

Highlights for ageing at home:

- Shorter average wait times from assessment to receiving support
- Support for home modifications, with up to \$15,000 to make homes safer
- Fast access to assistive technology, like walkers and wheelchairs
- A 12-week program to help people get back on their feet after illness or injury
- Support for the last three months of life to help individuals who would like to die at home do so, surrounded by their loved ones.

Mr Williamson also welcomed the overarching theme of the Act – putting the rights and needs of older people first.

“Being responsive, innovative and consistent as a provider requires a huge financial investment and ongoing commitment. It is a big relief that these reforms will allow us to get to work and make positive changes to better serve our ageing community.”

The Bill will now be referred to the Senate for inquiry and feedback. The new [Aged Care Act](#) is expected to commence from 1 July 2025.

Media enquiries

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About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic, for-purpose organisation, love, joy, hospitality and courage aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and passionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

