

Home Care Connection

Newsletter

October 2024

VMCH

The new Aged Care Act and what it means to you!

As you may be aware, the Australian Government finally introduced its new Aged Care Act into Parliament. Touted as 'once in a generation reforms', the \$5.6 billion aged care package addresses recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care and will help ensure the sustainability of our sector into the future.

The reforms include a \$4.3 billion investment in the new Support at Home program, replacing the current Home Care Package program and Short-Term Restorative Care Programme from 1 July 2025.

This means:

- Shorter average wait times from assessment to 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 after illness or injury
- Support for the last three months of life to help people to die at home, surrounded by their loved ones.

If you would like to learn more about the Act, please visit: www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act



National Carers Week

National Carers Week runs from Sunday, October 13 to Saturday, October 19. This special week is dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the incredible support and care that unpaid carers provide.

At VMCH, we proudly support unpaid carers through various uplifting programs. Whether you need a break, personal care for your loved one or support around the home, VMCH is here to help.

Scan the QR code or visit the link below for more information.

<https://vmch.com.au/support-for-carers/carers>



'Interim' Home Care Packages



Have you been assigned an interim Home Care Package by My Aged Care, but the level doesn't quite suit your needs? We can help.

We're conscious that people waiting for a package upgrade can be vulnerable to health risks, so we can help you to prioritise your care needs and ensure your available package funds are being directed where they're needed most.

Wherever possible, we will refer you for additional supports and services to supplement your package income. You may also like to contribute personally, if you have the financial means to do so.



What happens once you're assigned your higher-level package?

My Aged Care will automatically upgrade you to a higher-level package and notify both you and us, your provider, when this happens. We will then arrange to review your care plan and package budget with you.

If you're on the waiting list for a higher-level package but your current package level is meeting your needs, and/or you have unspent funds, we recommend you remain on your current package level.

You can opt-out of the priority waitlist temporarily, and if your needs increase, you will go to the top of the list to receive your package upgrade.

Like to know more?

Please let us know if your needs are not being met with your current package funds and we will support your application for a higher-level package or find alternative support in the meantime. Call us on 1300 650 615.

Have your say

We are dedicated to upholding the rights of those we support and are committed to achieving excellence and continuous improvement. Please be assured that all feedback is documented and addressed accordingly.



Scan the QR code or visit us at vmch.com.au/feedback.