



## New Aged Care Act 2024

The Commonwealth Government has passed a new Aged Care Act (the Act). It will take effect on 1 November 2025. When the Act starts there will be changes to Australia's aged care system and programs. The Home Care Package (HCP) and Short Term Restorative Care (STRC) programs will be replaced by a new Support at Home (SAH) program.

## Transition to Support at Home (SAH)

If an older person has a HCP in place on 31 October 2025, they will move to the SAH program on 1 November 2025. They will:

- be known as a 'participant' or 'older person'
- keep their current service provider, unless they choose otherwise
- receive the same amount of funding each year as they do for their HCP services
- rollover any unspent HCP funds to use for services, equipment or home modifications under SAH
- not pay any Basic Daily Fees or Package Management Fees under SAH

If an older person was assessed as needing a HCP but is still waiting for one when the SAH program starts, they will move into the new SAH National Priority System until funding becomes available for them.

Older people who had a HCP, were waiting in the National Priority System for a HCP, or were assessed as eligible for a HCP on **12 September 2024** will be known as **grandfathered participants**. A 'no worse off' principle will apply in relation to their income tested care fees.

The 'no worse off' principle **does not apply** to older people assessed as eligible for a HCP **after** 12 September 2024.

## 'No worse off' principle

The 'no worse off' principle applies to income tested care fees under the HCP program. Grandfathered participants who were assessed as:

- **exempt from paying in income tested care fee** toward their HCP services - will not contribute to the cost of their services under SAH.
- **required to pay an income tested care fee** - will contribute the same or less towards their SAH services as they currently contribute under the HCP program.

Note: No co-contributions will be required from anyone for clinical care services under SAH, as these will be entirely funded by the government.

## SAH Standard Participant Contribution Rates

	Clinical Supports	Independence	Everyday Living
Full pensioner	0%	5%	17.5%
Part Pensioner	0%	Between 5% - 50%	Between 17.5% - 80%
Self-funded retiree eligible for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	0%	Between 5% - 50%	Between 17.5% - 80%
Self-funded retiree not eligible for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	0%	50%	80%

[www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/support-at-home-program-handbook?language=en](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/support-at-home-program-handbook?language=en)

## SAH Grandfathered Participant Contribution Rates

Only for grandfathered HCP participants.

	Clinical Supports	Independence	Everyday Living
Full pensioner	0%	0%	0%
Part Pensioner	0%	Between 0% - 25%	Between 0% - 25%
Self-funded retiree eligible for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	0%	Between 0% - 25%	Between 0% - 25%
Self-funded retiree not eligible for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	0%	25%	25%

[www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/support-at-home-program-handbook?language=en](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/support-at-home-program-handbook?language=en)

## Statement of Rights

The Statement of Rights, included in the new Aged Care Act, sets out the rights of older people when receiving funded aged care services.

It replaces the Aged Care Charter of Rights and must be adhered to by assessors, service providers and registered supporters.

The 13 rights include the right to make choices (including where risk is involved), be supported to make decisions, stay connected to their community and the people who matter to them, and receive safe and quality services.

## Features of HCP

- **Four funding levels**
- **Monthly budget and statements**
- **Care management fees:** A flat fee charged monthly.
- **Package management fees:** A flat monthly fee to cover providers' administrative costs.
- **Basic daily fee:** A fee individuals might pay toward the cost of their care. Not all providers charge this fee.
- **Income tested care fee:** A daily fee individuals may have to pay toward their care, based on a means test. Their HCP funding will be reduced by this amount.
- **Services:** Flexibility to choose a range of home care services, as long as they meet the individual's assessed care needs and are allowed under the HCP.
- **Equipment and home modifications:** Costs are paid from HCP funding if enough funds are left after paying for ongoing services.

## Features of SAH

- **Eight ongoing funding levels**
- **Quarterly budget, monthly statements**
- **Care management:** 10% of the quarterly ongoing budget will be set aside to pay for care management services.
- **No package management fees:** Provider's administrative costs must now be included in service prices.
- **No basic daily fees**
- **Participant contribution:** An amount the individual has to pay towards their care, based on their means and assets and the type of service.
- **Services:** Must be included in the SAH service list. When reassessed to a SAH budget, must be in the list of services approved at assessment.
- **Equipment and home modifications:** Separate funding available based on an assessment.



## Service Prices

Service providers will set their own service prices for 2025-2026. The government will introduce capped prices in 2026-2027.

Under the new SAH guidelines, providers must include all costs, except care management, in their service prices. This is because package management fees will no longer exist under SAH.

## Registered Supporters

Under the new Act, all older people are presumed to be able to make their own decisions. However, they may choose to register one or more trusted people to support them to make decisions. Registered supporters have specific duties under the new Act.

Current representatives authorised in My Aged Care will automatically become registered supporters on 1 November 2025.



## Where can I find out more?

Department of Health and Aged Care

[www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act/resources/older-people](http://www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act/resources/older-people)

My Aged Care

[www.myagedcare.gov.au/upcoming-changes-aged-care-funding-how-they-affect-you#see-how-much-you-might-pay-for-services-under-support-at-home](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/upcoming-changes-aged-care-funding-how-they-affect-you#see-how-much-you-might-pay-for-services-under-support-at-home)

[www.myagedcare.gov.au/arranging-someone-support-you/upcoming-changes-support-roles-and-relationships](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/arranging-someone-support-you/upcoming-changes-support-roles-and-relationships)