

What has changed overall?

The *Living Longer Living Better* (LLLBB) reforms passed into legislation on 26 June 2013. Over five years, from July 2012 to June 2017, the reforms will deliver more support and care at home, additional home and residential care places, a focus on greater consumer choice and control, greater recognition of diversity and support to carers.

Ageing in place in the home or in residential care will ensure that services are provided in response to the changing needs of older Australians.

Aged care services will continue to be provided to people aged 65 and older (or 50 and older for Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders). The reforms are outlined at:

<http://www.livinglongerlivingbetter.gov.au/>

Who does this impact?

The reform agenda will apply for all new recipients of aged care services at the commencement date of each component. Existing recipients will continue their current arrangements, unless they decide to change.

Funding to the program

The \$3.7billion program realigns \$2.6billion of existing funds combined with new funding of \$576.9million and an estimated \$561million from new means testing arrangements. This included \$1.2billion for a Workforce Compact to improve wages, conditions and career paths for aged care workers – funding now ceased and re-allocated to increase subsidies and viability supplements to providers.

National Seniors involvement

National Seniors Australia has been actively engaged in the ongoing investigations and reforms into aged care. We have produced research and reports, participated in advisory groups, provided submissions to the Productivity Commission and Senate

Committee Inquiries, and responded to proposed accommodation payment levels.



What are the key changes?

An additional 40,000 Home Care places (total 100,000) and 29,500 residential care places (total 221,000) by 2017.

Means testing on income in Home Care and income and assets in residential care.

Removal of the distinction between low and high care in residential care.

More transparent accommodation payment levels and a choice of payment method.

Consumer directed care (CDC) provides older Australians with greater choice and control over the delivery of their care.

Commenced 2012

Commonwealth assumes full funding and administration for Home and Community Care (HACC) services (July 2012).

New strategies recognise and support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people (December 2012).

Commenced July 2013

My Aged Care Gateway provides centralised information about the aged care system and services through a user centred *My Aged Care* website and a national contact centre.

- www.myagedcare.gov.au website
- National Contact Centre 1800 200 422.

Needs assessment through the Gateway will be phased in from early 2014, with screening of most clients from 1 July 2014.

Centralised aged care data clearing house established by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Removal of the exemption under the *Sex Discrimination Act* for religious providers of Commonwealth funded aged care services to refuse services on the basis of the protected attribute of sexual orientation.

Advisory services for providers to transition their business (\$6.9million over three years) in addition to existing business support.

Commenced August 2013 for all new aged care recipients

Four new supplements paid to providers: *Dementia and Cognition* (in home care) and the *Dementia and Severe Behaviours* (in residential care); *Veterans mental health*, and *Homeless* supplements. (The *Workforce* supplement funds are now redirected.)

Four levels of Home Care to provide seamless support and services:

- 1 Basic (new),
- 2 current Community Aged Care Package (CACP),
- 3 Intermediate (new), and
- 4 current Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH).

Consumer directed care (CDC) for all new Home Care recipients (all clients CDC 2015).

The Community Visitor Program will be extended to Home Care recipients.

Commencing 1 July 2014 for all new aged care recipients

New means testing arrangements determine the requirement to pay fees and charges for aged care services and accommodation payments in residential care.

Hardship provisions extend to Home Care recipients.

Removal of the distinction between low and high care in residential aged care will ensure services can be delivered across a continuum of need.

All residents of aged care facilities will be assessed for their eligibility to pay an accommodation payment, dependent on means testing. Accommodation payments must be justified against key criteria and published by providers on the internet and in all relevant documents from 19 May 2014.

Providers can offer more flexible arrangements for recipients to purchase extra services and additional amenities.

A new aged care Pricing Commissioner will be established January 2014 to commence operations July 2014.

New Aged Care Quality Agency established January 2014 will commence operations July 2014 and will accredit Home Care providers in addition to residential aged care providers.

The Aged Care Financing Authority will be established as a statutory committee and will closely monitor and advise on fees and charges including accommodation payments.

Commencing 1 July 2015 for all new aged care recipients

Home Support combines HACC, Respite and Day Therapy Centres. Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged to be determined.

Consumer Directed Care is available for all existing Home Care recipients.

Network of Carer Support Centres established.

Please see the separate Fact Sheet on means testing arrangements for aged care fees, charges and accommodation payments.