



ANMF INFORMATION SHEET: AGED CARE SUPPORT

DIRECT SUPPORT MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR AGED CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Key Points for Aged Care Workers^{1,2}

On 20 March 2020 the Federal Government announced \$444.6m to go towards supporting Aged Care providers, residents, staff and families. This funding was announced in addition to a \$101.2m share of broader health funding announced in response to COVID-19.

****Update**** On 1 May 2020 the Federal Government announced an additional \$205m in funding to support Commonwealth funded residential aged care providers. This funding will see a 'per-resident' payment made to providers and an extension to the Business Improvement Fund for residential care.

****Update**** On 21 August 2020 the Federal Government announced an additional \$171.5m in funding to support the response to COVID-19 in aged care. The funding will be used to continue programs for infection control training, surge workforce, and compliance by the Aged Care Commissioner and coordinated response centres.

****Update**** On 31 August 2020 the Federal Government announced an additional \$563.3m in funding to support the response to COVID-19 in aged care. Primarily, this funding includes another round of direct, per resident, subsidies to be provided to facilities (similar to that announced in May 2020) and a third payment round of the workforce retention bonus, based on employment as at 30 November.

****Update**** On 30 November 2020 the Federal Government announced \$132.2m as part of its response to the Aged Care Royal Commission's recommendations on COVID-19.

*Facilities are receiving financial support from the Federal Government throughout the COVID-19 crisis. If you see hours being cut, inappropriate staffing or an inadequate supply of PPE at your facility – **let your union know.***

Retention Bonus

To support aged care worker retention, \$234.9m will be dispersed through two separate payments to 'direct care' and 'in-home' aged care workers. As announced on 31 August 2020, a further \$154.5m will be dispersed through a third payment.

- Full-time 'Direct care' workers will receive \$800 before tax per quarter, for three quarters.
- In-home care workers will receive \$600 before tax, per quarter, for three quarters.

****note:** *the retention bonus was originally announced as an after-tax payment. This position has since been reneged on by government with the payment now being considered as income and subject to income tax.*

As announced on 31 August 2020, a third payment will be based on staffing as at 30 November 2020.

¹ Colbeck R. Measures to support Senior Australians and those who care for them. 2020. Department of Health <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measures-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them>

² Department of Health. Protecting Older Australians: Daily Covid 19 Updates 31 March 2020. 2020. Aged & Community Services Australia. https://acsa.asn.au/ACSA/media/General/Documents/Aged%20Care%20Emergency%20Planning/Protecting-Older-Australians_-COVID-19-update-31-03-2020.pdf

**Update: Providers with eligible staff employed at 30 November 2020 will receive this third payment in January 2021 to pass onto their workers.

How will I receive the payment?

Employers (i.e. aged care providers and agencies who provide aged care staff) must apply for a grant to receive the payment on behalf of all their eligible workers, *'as they are best placed to make this assessment'*. It is then the responsibility of the employer to pass on the payment to eligible staff.

Contract/Agency staff not directly employed by the aged care provider are included in the payment however the Agency, and not the provider, must make the application.

Although the payment will be made three times, employers are only required to apply for the grant once. Providers can submit a variation request if the staffing profile has changed. The subsequent payments will be adjusted accordingly. The third payment due in January 2021 will be based on the value of the second payment, unless a provider provides a variation.

Applications for the grant opened mid-June and the first payment was to be delivered in July (dependent on the time of application). The second round of payments were to be made in September. Providers with eligible staff employed at 30 November 2020 will receive a third payment in January 2021 to pass onto their workers.

The payment will be subjected to an active audit program which will be a combination of random and targeted audits. This auditing is suggested to *'ensure workers receive their bonus from the provider'* and will cover both the June application process and September and November variation processes.

Facilities will be audited to 'ensure workers receive their bonus from the provider'. Government has indicated however that targeted audits will be based on the analysis of complaints or feedback. If you feel you should have received the bonus and have not.. again, – Let your union know.

How do I know if I'm eligible to receive the payment?

Residential Aged Care

Direct care workers – are defined by Minister Colbeck as personal care workers, enrolled nurses, registered nurses and allied health who are working in residential care.

In-home Care

In-home care workers - are workers providing clinical care, personal care, cleaning, home support activities and meal preparation, social support, shopping, community access and transport, allied health and respite.

Other eligibility criteria

Full Time, Part Time and Casual Staff are eligible.

Payments will be made on a pro-rata basis and so part-time workers will receive a fractional payment in-line with the percentage of full-time work they completed. The payment is based on hours worked in the four weeks before the application date. Where a worker has been employed for less than four weeks, they are still eligible. Their payment will be based on their average hours in a week since their employment commenced. Further detail is provided in the table below.

Hours	Percentage of payment received
Between 3 and 7.5 hours per week	20%
More than 7.5 and up to 15 hours per week	40%
More than 15 and up to 22.5 hours per week	60%
More than 22.5 and up to 30 hours per week	80%
More than 30 hours per week	100%

As the payment amount differs between those working in Residential Aged Care and Home Care, workers can expect to receive a before tax (gross) payment in July and September, as outlined below.

<i>Eligible Workers</i>	Between 3 and 7.5 hours per week	More than 7.5 and up to 15 hours per week	More than 15 and up to 22.5 hours per week	More than 22.5 and up to 30 hours per week	More than 30 hours per week
Residential Aged Care	\$160	\$320	\$480	\$640	\$800
Home Care	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600

Staff must be employed by the grant recipient (their employer) at the time of application, i.e. for the third payment as at 30 November 2020.

Eligible State/Local Government employees in commonwealth funded (under the Aged Care Act) residential or home care are included.

Employees of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care (NATSI) Program and Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) are included.

Who can apply for the grant?

Approved Residential Aged Care Providers, Approved Home Care Providers, Approved state/local government residential or home care providers, Approved National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program providers, Approved Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) providers and Agencies who employ staff working for residential or home care providers (the agency, not the provider, applies) may apply for the grant.

Commonwealth funded programs including the Commonwealth Home Support Program, Short Term Restorative Care and Transition Care are excluded from the grant.

What other funding supports are available?

Residential Aged Care Facilities

The Federal Government has also announced \$78.3m in additional funding for residential aged care facilities. All facilities will receive a portion of this funding, delivered as a 1.2%³ increase to subsidies paid through the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) with the payments taking effect from 1 March to 31 August 2020 and will be delivered from April 2020.

Commonwealth funded residential aged care providers will also receive an additional per-resident payment. Providers in major metropolitan areas will receive \$900 per resident and providers outside of major metropolitan areas will receive \$1350 per resident. This payment will be delivered via Services Australia and is expected to be made by early June. The funding is intended to support additional staffing, training, visitation and connection, and the provision of personal protective equipment. **Update: The Government has announced a second payment round of this subsidy; Metropolitan facilities will receive \$975 per resident, and regional, rural and remote facilities will receive \$1435 per resident.

³ https://acsa.asn.au/ACSA/media/General/Documents/Aged%20Care%20Emergency%20Planning/2020-05-02_Protecting-Older-Australians.pdf

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) providers

The Federal Government has also announced \$92.2m in additional support for CHSP providers. Of this funding \$70.2m will be made available for the CHSP providers that meet eligibility criteria to make unsolicited proposals for funding (\$40m in 2019/20 and \$30.2m in 2020/21). **Update: The Government have announced a further \$71.4m to be provided to CHSP providers, intended to support temporary relocation of older Australians into the community.

In terms of eligibility, CHSP providers may now take advantage of expanded flexibility provisions which includes reallocation of funding between funded service types. Further information can be found [here](#). A CHSP provider may apply for additional funding where they have exhausted flexibility provisions (or are unable to enact them) and can show the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on their ability to deliver services.⁴

The remaining \$22m will be delivered as temporary subsidy increases similar to those provided for residential aged care facilities. The funding will take effect from the 1 March to 31 August 2020 and is expected to be delivered from April 2020.

Increases to Viability Supplements

The Federal Government has also announced \$26.9m to support a temporary 30% increase to the Residential and Home Care Viability Supplements and the Homeless Supplement.

I.e. the following increases to supplements will take effect from 1 March to 31 August 2020 and be delivered from April 2020. **Update: The Government has announced this scheme will be extended for a further six months to end of February 2021.

- 30% increase to providers eligible for the residential care viability supplement
- 30% increase to providers eligible for the home care viability supplement
- 30% increase to providers eligible for the Homeless Supplement
- Viability Supplement equivalent payment under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program
- Viability Supplement equivalent payment for Multi-Purpose Services

⁴ Department of Health. Further arrangements for CHSP providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 <https://www.health.gov.au/news/further-arrangements-for-chsp-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASES MADE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO SUPPORTING AGED CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Announcement by Federal Government on 11 March 2020⁵

Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Richard Colbeck announced **\$101.2m** to support the **aged care COVID-19 response**. Scope for the funding includes:

- Upskilling aged care workers in coronavirus infection control;
- Boosting staff numbers, support and training for residential care homes where an urgent health response is required;
- A telehealth consultation service provided by doctors, both GPs and specialists, for anyone over the age of 70;
- Specialist onsite pathology services ensuring residents don't have to leave facilities and to quickly respond to potential cases; and
- Additional funds allowing the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to work with providers on improving infection control.

Announcement by Federal Government on 18 March 2020⁶

Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs Alan Tudge announced Aged care providers will be able to **temporarily offer more hours to international students** as care providers to senior and vulnerable Australians.

- The existing restriction of 40 hours per fortnight will be 'relaxed'
- Is only available to approved providers of Commonwealth funded aged care services
- Only existing employees are eligible

Announcement by Federal Government on 20 March 2020⁷

Federal Government announced \$444.6m to support Aged Care providers, residents, staff and families. This funding is stated to be in addition to the previously announced \$101.2m.

The announced support is to be distributed under the following themes:

COVID-19 'retention bonus'

- **\$234.9m** for a COVID-19 'retention bonus'
 - Up to \$800 after tax per quarter – paid for two quarters – for direct care workers.
 - Two payments of up to \$600 after tax per quarter – for two quarters – for those who provide care in the home.
 - Payments will be delivered to providers to pay their workers and part-time workers will be paid a pro-rata rate.

⁵ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/funding-boost-for-aged-care-set-to-strengthen-defence-against-covid-19>

⁶ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/international-students-ready-to-fill-critical-staff-shortages-in-aged-care>

⁷ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measures-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them>

Continuity of workforce supply

- **\$78.3m** in additional funding for residential care to support continuity of workforce supply.

Increase to Home Care Viability and Homeless supplements

- **\$26.9m** for a temporary 30 per cent increase to the Residential and Home Care Viability Supplements and the Homeless Supplement.
- This is inclusive of equivalent viability funding increases for:
 - o National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program providers
 - o Multi-Purpose Services
 - o homeless providers.

Support to providers that deliver the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

- **\$92.2m** in additional support to home care providers and organisations which deliver the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, operating services including meals on wheels. This will include services for people in self-isolation such as shopping and meal delivery.
 - o Further info:⁸
 - \$70.2m is for unsolicited proposals by CHSP providers, (\$40m in 2019/20 and \$30.2m in 2020/21)
 - Where there is significant impact on the ability of CHSP providers to deliver services they may submit an unsolicited proposal for additional grant funding. Must first use expanded flexibility provisions
 - Expanded flexibility provisions include the reallocation of funding between funded service types and is detailed here: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/further-arrangements-for-chsp-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

Support for My Aged Care

- **\$12.3m** to support the My Aged Care service to meet the surge in aged care specific COVID-19 enquiries, allowing for additional staff to minimise call wait times.

Announcement by Federal Government on 30 March 2020⁹

Minister for Aged Care Richard Colbeck has announced **\$10m** of a \$1.1bn support scheme announced by Federal Government will go towards **supporting and expanding a Community Visitors Scheme**.

- Will support the training of extra staff and training of volunteers to connect with older people in aged care both online and by phone.

Announcement by Federal Government on 31 March 2020¹⁰

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced **\$59.3m** to ensure the **delivery of prepared meals, food staples and essential daily items** for senior residents following COVID-19 restrictions.

- \$50m will fund 3.4m meals for \$1K people for six weeks (two meals a day).
- \$9.3m will buy 36K emergency food supply boxes.
- Delivery will be prioritised to people registered with My Aged Care.
 - o Senior Australians without access to the internet will be able to contact My Aged Care directly for access to basic food and necessities.

⁸ <https://www.health.gov.au/news/further-arrangements-for-chsp-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

⁹ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-to-keep-people-active-and-healthy-as-covid-19-restrictions-continue>

¹⁰ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/meals-on-wheels-programs-reinforced-to-help-senior-australians-at-home>

Announcement by Federal Government on 3 April 2020¹¹

Minister for Aged Care Richard Colbeck **urged aged care workers to get their flu vaccination.**

- Urged all care workers, including those who work in residential homes and those who provide in home care.
- The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has advised all residential aged care staff and visiting workers be vaccinated before May 1.
- State and Territories are responsible for enforcing the directions and failing to comply may include a fine to the individual or body corporate. Clarification on requirement should be sought from local State or Territory Government.

Announcement by Federal Government on 12 April 2020¹²

Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck announced **contingency measures to ensure the delivery of care to aged care recipients.** These measures are being funded through the previously announced \$101.2m.

- An emergency response team to respond to a significant outbreak in an aged care facility
- Remote locums to support aged care providers in remote Australia in case of staffing shortages
- Access to a surge workforce in the event providers are unable to fill critical roles due to staff infection and self-isolation.

Announcement by Federal Government on 17 April 2020¹³

Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Richard Colbeck **urged staff and residents of residential Aged Care Facilities to receive their flu vaccination.**

- Primary Health Networks will contact all aged care providers, undertake needs assessments and coordinate influenza vaccination programs where there is an identified need.

Announcement by Federal Government on 1 May 2020^{14,15,16}

Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck and Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced an additional **\$205m** in support **funding for Commonwealth funded residential aged care providers.**

- Providers in major metropolitan areas will receive approx. \$900 per resident.
- Providers outside of major metropolitan areas will receive 50% loading, i.e. approx. \$1350 per resident.
- Funds are intended to support additional staffing, training, support visitation and connection, and the provision of personal protective equipment.
- The payment will be provided through Services Australia and is expected to be made by early June.

Funding for the **Business Improvement Fund for residential care** has also been extended for another year, receiving an **additional \$48m in funding.**

- This fund is intended to deliver short-term targeted grants to eligible aged care providers at risk of severe financial difficulty.

¹¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-workers-must-get-flu-vaccination>

¹² <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/contingency-measures-to-ensure-continuity-of-aged-care-during-covid-19>

¹³ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/primary-health-networks-mobilise-for-flu-vaccination-season>

¹⁴ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/new-covid-19-payment-keep-senior-australians-residential-aged-care-safe>

¹⁵ <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/business-improvement-fund-for-residential-care>

¹⁶ https://acsa.asn.au/ACSA/media/General/Documents/Aged%20Care%20Emergency%20Planning/2020-05-02_Protecting-Older-Australians.pdf

Correspondence to the ANMF from Federal Government on 21 May 2020

Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians Richard Colbeck sent correspondence to the ANMF, providing further detail in regard to elements of Aged Care Support throughout COVID-19.

Aged Care Retention bonus

The minister confirmed that the Government will provide \$234.9 million to eligible workers in residential care and home care during COVID-19 to help retain them in the workforce.

How much:

Eligible residential care workers will receive up to \$800 per quarter, for two quarters.

Eligible home care workers will receive up to \$600 per quarter, for two quarters.

How is it accessed:

Employers (i.e. aged care providers and agencies who provide aged care staff) must apply for a grant to receive the payment on behalf of all their eligible workers, 'as they are best placed to make this assessment'. It is then the responsibility of the employer to pass on the payment to eligible staff.

Contract/Agency staff not directly employed by the aged care provider are included however the Agency, and not the provider, must make the application.

When will the payment be made?

Payments are expected to commence in late June and September (subject to application date).

Who is eligible:

Staff must be working for the grant recipient at the time of application, i.e. early to mid-June 2020 and early to mid-September 2020.

Full Time, Part Time or Casual staff are eligible.

Residential Aged Care – Full Time 'Direct care' workers in residential care facilities are eligible.

- 'Direct care' workers are defined as personal care workers, registered nurses, enrolled nurses and allied health.

Home Care – workers in Home Care are eligible if they provide clinical care, personal care, cleaning, home support activities and meal preparation, social support, shopping, community access and transport, allied health or respite.

Eligible State/Local Government employees in commonwealth funded (under the Aged Care Act) residential or home care are included.

Employees of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSI) and Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) are included.

Other Support for Aged Care Providers

Emergency Response Teams

If a residential aged care service provider finds they are unable to deliver operations safely or support care recipients as a result of COVID-19, they will be able to access intensive support provided by emergency response teams. This intensive support will be arranged by the Department of Health and provided by Aspen Medical.

Aspen Medical has also been engaged to support the provision of remote locums to aged care providers in remote Australia if they are unable to source staff.

Replacing Critical Skill Shortages

Mable has been engaged by the Department of Health to replace Critical Skill Shortages apparent as a result of COVID-19. If Residential Aged Care, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program or Home Care Package providers are unable to fill critical skill needs a provider can call the 'My Aged Care Provider and Assessor Helpline' (1800 836 799) and answer a series of screening and eligibility questions. If found eligible, Mable will provide staff for up to four weeks and this will be payable by the Department of Health.

'Workforce Retention Bonus Grant' information released on 5 June 2020¹⁷

The Australian Government Department of Health released a fact sheet providing further detail in regard to the Aged Care retention bonus. This fact sheet was released as part of the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources for health professionals' collection, located here: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/workforce-retention-bonus-grant-residential-care-and-home-care>

Aged Care Retention Bonus

The bonus will be paid to eligible staff by aged care providers and agencies. To make the payment to their staff, employers will be funded via a grant round opening in June 2020.

Two payments will be made, the first for staff employed in June and the second for staff employed at 31 August 2020. A grants round will open for eligible providers/agencies to apply by mid-June 2020 on 'GrantConnect' and payments are expected to begin in July (dependent on time of application)

To be eligible, workers must be employed at the time of the application.

Providers are only required to apply for the payment once to receive both payments. The second September payment will be based on the staffing profile detailed in the June application. If necessary, providers are able to submit a variation request (i.e. if staffing profile differs between June and August 31) and the September payment will be adjusted accordingly.

The payment will be subjected to an active audit program which will be a combination of random and targeted audits. Targeted audits will be based on, but not limited to:

- analysis of complaints or feedback
- examination of data held by the Department of Health, cross referenced with application data
- any other information or anomalies that emerge

This auditing is suggested to '*ensure workers receive their bonus from the provider*' and will cover both the June application process and September variation process.

New employers entering the market after June will be able to make an application for the September payment.

Who can apply for the grant?

- Approved Residential Aged Care Providers
- Approved Home Care Providers
- Approved state/local government residential or home care providers
- Approved National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program providers
- Approved Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) providers
- Agencies who employ staff working for residential or home care providers (the agency, not the provider, applies)

¹⁷ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/workforce-retention-bonus-grant-residential-care-and-home-care>

Which Commonwealth funded programs are excluded?

- Commonwealth Home Support Program
- Short Term Restorative Care
- Transition Care

Which workers are eligible? (there has been no change to eligibility of workers as per previous announcements)

- Residential Aged Care: direct care workers in residential care facilities, including personal care workers, registered nurses, enrolled nurses and allied health.
- Home Care: includes workers providing clinical care, personal care, cleaning, home support activities and meal preparation, social support, shopping, community access and transport, allied health and respite.
- Staff can be Full Time, Part Time or Casual.
- Contract/agency staff not directly employed by a provider are included, however the agency, not the provider must make the application for the grant.
- Eligible State/Local Government employees in Commonwealth funded residential or home care are included.
- Employees of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program and Multi-Purpose Services are included.

How much will each worker receive?

Payments will be made on a pro-rata basis and so part-time workers will receive a fractional payment in-line with the percentage of full-time work they completed. The payment is based on hours worked in the four weeks before the application date. Where a worker has been employed for less than four weeks, they are still eligible. Their payment will be based on their average hours in a week since their employment commenced. Further detail is provided in the table below.

Hours	Percentage of payment received
Between 3 and 7.5 hours per week	20%
More than 7.5 and up to 15 hours per week	40%
More than 15 and up to 22.5 hours per week	60%
More than 22.5 and up to 30 hours per week	80%
More than 30 hours per week	100%

As the payment amount differs between those working in Residential Aged Care and Home Care, workers can expect to receive a before tax (gross) payment in July and September, as outlined below.

<i>Eligible Workers</i>	Between 3 and 7.5 hours per week	More than 7.5 and up to 15 hours per week	More than 15 and up to 22.5 hours per week	More than 22.5 and up to 30 hours per week	More than 30 hours per week
Residential Aged Care	\$160	\$320	\$480	\$640	\$800
Home Care	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600

As noted prior, the aged care retention bonus will be taxed. The fact sheet states the following, “payments are considered income and are subject to income tax when paid to the employee. This is consistent with other COVID-19 measures, such as the JobKeeper payment”.

The provider is not required to pay compulsory superannuation on these payments.

What information will providers be required to supply?

Providers will be required to attach a spreadsheet to their grant application that details the information provided as an example in the figure below.

	Provider Name	ABC Residential Aged Care Inc				
	Provider ID	13				
	Short Title of your Application	ABC Residential Aged Care Inc - Aged Care Workforce Retention Grant - North Queensland				
Facility One	Type of Care (please select from drop down)	Residential Aged Care				
	Service or Facility Name/ Company Name	Southside Home				
	Service ID	1234				
	Operational Places	723				
	Staffing Type	3 to 7.5hrs	7.5 to 15hrs	15 to 22.5hrs	22.5 to 30hrs	30+hrs
	Nurse Practitioner	0	0	1	2	0
	Registered Nurse	0	0	1	2	0
	Enrolled Nurse	1	1	1	1	1
	Allied Health	1	1	4	3	0
	Personal Care Worker	0	1	5	1	2
Community Care Worker*	1	0	3	0	0	
* Only applicable in Home Care - see definition above						
TOTAL	3	3	15	9	3	

Announcement by Federal Government on 21 August 2020¹⁸

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced an additional **\$171.5m** to support the **response to COVID-19** in aged care.

- Support for the aged care workforce will include
 - o \$81m for additional surge workforce and increased training for aged care workers
 - o \$8.4m for supplementary payments to include quarantine and interstate staff
 - o %50m to account for additional demand for retention bonus measures (noting eligibility has not changed)
- \$9.1m for the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre, to increase the size of their workforce and provide further training.
- \$12.5m to provide grief and trauma support services that will assist aged care residents and their families.
- \$1.5m to ensure appropriate and regular communication between Health Direct and families and residents impacted by COVID-19.
- \$9.1m to support the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's work in responding to COVID-19.
- Government will also support more compliance and quality checks on aged care providers, undertaken by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, checking on preparations and responses to COVID-19 outbreaks.

¹⁸ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/reinforcement-australias-aged-care-sector>

Announcement by Federal Government on 31 August 2020^{19,20}

Minister for Health Greg Hunt announced an additional \$563.3m to provide further support to the aged care sector in response to COVID-19.

- \$245m will be provided to all registered aged care facilities.
 - Facilities will receive \$975 per resident in MMM1 (metropolitan) areas and, \$1435 per resident in MMM2-7 (regional, rural and remote).
 - This funding is to be used to support COVID-19 related costs such as infection control, including appointment of an on-site clinical lead;
 - may also be used to support increased staffing, communication with family and management of visitation arrangements.
 - Providers will be required to report the use of this funding in end of financial year returns.
- The 30% increase to the viability and residential homeless care supplement will be continued for a further six months.
- The Supporting Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 Grant will be extended as an entitlement from an initial duration of 8 weeks to 12 weeks. \$92.4m in total has been made available for the funding of these grants. Further funds will be made available should new COVID-19 hotspots be declared.
- \$154.5m will be made available for a third round of the workforce retention bonus, based on employment as of 30 November.
- A further \$71.4m will be provided for the Commonwealth Home Support Program. This funding is intended to support the relocation of older Australians from facilities to the community, to live with their family due to concerns of COVID-19.

Announcement by Federal Government on 30 November 2020²¹

Minister for Health Greg Hunt announced an additional \$132.2m in its response to the Aged Care Royal Commission's recommendations on COVID-19.

- \$63.3m for Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) measures including mental and allied health support
- \$57.8m to fund jurisdictions to support Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training
- \$11.1m toward a Serious Incident Response Scheme

¹⁹ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-funding-to-reinforce-australias-aged-care-sector>

²⁰ <https://www.greghunt.com.au/transcript-doorstop-canberra-8/>

²¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-1322-million-for-aged-care-covid-response>