

Extension of Commonwealth Home Support Program welcomed by UnitingCare Australia amid aged care transition

UnitingCare Australia has welcomed the Government's decision to extend the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) until 30 June 2029, saying the move will provide certainty for older Australians and aged care providers during a period of significant reform.

"The extension of CHSP is an important step that provides greater continuity of care for older Australians and providers at a time of significant change across the aged care sector," said Tamara Thomas, National Director of UnitingCare Australia.

Providers across the UnitingCare network deliver CHSP services to approximately 54,000 older Australians nationwide, including almost 23,000 people supported by BlueCare in Queensland.

"For thousands of older Australians, CHSP plays a critical role in getting the right support to people early in their ageing journey, enabling them to stay independent at home longer and connected to their communities," said Cathy Thomas, Group Executive of BlueCare. "This decision gives people reassurance they will continue to receive care whilst other reforms are embedded."

The announcement follows ongoing concerns about lengthy wait times for aged care assessments and Support at Home packages, underscoring the importance of ensuring older Australians do not experience disruptions in care.

In its [appearance at the Senate Inquiry](#) into the transition of CHSP to the Support at Home Program, UnitingCare Australia advocated for a measured approach to aged care reform that gives certainty to both older Australians and providers, while recognising the important role of block-funded services that help people age well in their communities.

While this extension is a positive step forward, further work is needed to ensure changes to the way aged care is administered can deliver better outcomes.

UnitingCare Australia looks forward to continuing working with Government and its providers to help realise this vision.

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About UnitingCare Australia

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the Uniting Church's community services network and an agency of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. Through advocacy and by strengthening service provision, UnitingCare Australia gives voice to the Uniting Church's commitment to social justice.

The UnitingCare Network is the largest network of social service providers in Australia, delivering 5.8 million interactions annually across 1,600 service locations in urban, rural, and remote communities, with over 55,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers.

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