



# Commonwealth Home Support Programme

## Information sheet – overview of programme and feedback process

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme is central to the Government's aged care reform plan and will support the development of an end-to-end aged care system.

From 1 July 2015, the Commonwealth HACC Program, the National Respite for Carers Program, and the Day Therapy Centres Program will be combined under a single streamlined Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

Together, they will provide basic maintenance, care, support and respite services for older people living in their own homes, and the community, and their carers.

The current Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged Program was originally planned to form part of the new Programme. However, given the specialised nature of this service, the Department is seeking feedback from stakeholders on whether this should form part of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme or be a separate programme.

### Vision for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme will help older people living in the community to maximise their independence. Through the delivery of timely, high quality basic support services centred around each person's individual goals, preferences and choices – and underpinned by a strong emphasis on wellness and reablement – the programme will help its clients stay living in their own homes for as long as they can and wish to do so. In recognition of the vital role that carers play, where the older person has a carer the programme will support that care relationship.

### The Programme will:

- provide timely, basic home support services to frail older people and their carers, to help them remain living independently in the community - with people requiring higher levels of care eligible for Home Care Packages or residential aged care;
- streamline the home support system in order to cut red tape for providers and improve access for clients;
- increase sustainability through a more consistent approach to client fees;
- be underpinned by a wellness and reablement philosophy;
- be accessed through My Aged Care; and
- continue to build, and be informed by, a robust evidence base.

## Key Directions for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme Discussion Paper

The Department of Social Services has released the *Key Directions for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme Discussion Paper* on the broad directions and key design features for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, including changes the sector can expect in the transition to future arrangements. The paper is available on the [Department of Social Services](http://www.dss.gov.au) website at [www.dss.gov.au/chsp](http://www.dss.gov.au/chsp).

The Discussion Paper covers the strengths and challenges of the current home support system, key directions and design elements of the new Programme, transition arrangements for activities no longer in scope and longer-term considerations beyond 2015.

### Have your say

The Department is seeking your feedback on the design of the new Programme through questions raised in the Discussion Paper. Please visit the [Department's website](http://www.dss.gov.au) at [www.dss.gov.au/chsp](http://www.dss.gov.au/chsp) to download the submissions template.

All completed submissions will be analysed by the Department, with the outcomes to be used to inform the draft Commonwealth Home Support Programme Manual, which is expected to be released later in 2014.

Feedback will also inform longer-term development plans in the context of the five year review of the aged care reforms in 2016-17.

All submissions must be received by the Department by 5pm on Monday the 30 June 2014. Any submission received after the closing day not be considered.

### Stakeholder briefings

The Department is holding stakeholder briefings on the aged care reforms in capital cities and a number of regional areas on the upcoming 1 July 2014 changes and development of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

In capital cities, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme briefing will run at the same time as the briefing on 1 July 2014 changes to residential care. For regional areas, the key directions for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme are being covered as part of an integrated briefing session, rather than a separate, concurrent stream.

Please visit the [Department's website](http://www.dss.gov.au) at [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for further information about the stakeholder briefings, including registering your interest to attend a session in your area.

### Further information

Please visit the [Department's website](http://www.dss.gov.au) at [www.dss.gov.au/chsp](http://www.dss.gov.au/chsp) for further information on the new Programme, including the Discussion Paper and submission process.