Expansion of flexible care initiatives
2015 Budget

Older Australians should be supported to stay in their own home, living independently. Short-term restorative care can support people to be independent again after a fall or illness.

What was announced in the 2015 Budget?
The Australian Government will expand the number of short-term restorative care places to increase the care options available to older people, and improve their capacity to stay independent and living in their homes longer.

The new short-term restorative care programme will be used to help older people regain independence and function after a setback, like an illness or a fall. It will be provided so they can remain at or return home, rather than entering residential aged care.

The new care type will build on the success of the existing transition care programme that assists older people to return home after a hospital stay. These new places allow additional flexibility in how care is accessed and delivered.

Aged care providers will be encouraged to develop and offer a range of consumer focused and innovative models of short-term care to assist older people to improve their health and continue to function in their home and community.

From 2016-17, new short-term restorative care places will progressively become available. These new places will build on the current 4,000 transition care places to provide 6,000 short-term restorative care places by 2021, including 2,000 new places. When fully operational, around 12,000 people each year will benefit from these new places.

In recognition of the important role this type of care plays, all short-term restorative care places will be included in the aged care provision ratio. This ensures that the total number of short-term restorative care places will increase over time in line with population growth.

- Places under the new programme, including existing transition care places, will be included in the aged care provision ratio from 1 July 2015 resulting in savings of $56.2 million over four years.
There is no change in the overall aged care provision ratio of 125 aged care places for every 1,000 people aged 70 years or over by 2021-22. However, the balance of care types within the ratio will change from 1 July 2015 to accommodate the new care type as follows:

- Residential care places – 78 places (reduced from 80 places).
- Home care places – 45 places (unchanged).
- Short-term restorative care places – 2 places (now included in the ratio for the first time).

The new places will be allocated to aged care providers through a competitive process.

**Key Facts**

- From 1 July 2016 there will be an increase in restorative care places.
- These places will be included in the aged care provision ratio.
- There is no change in the overall aged care provision ratio, however the balance of care types within the ratio will change.
- Aged care providers will be encouraged to offer innovative models of restorative care.
- New places will start to be available from 2016.
- When fully operational, around 12,000 people will benefit each year.
- This will save $56.2 million over four years.

**More information**

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services’ Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services](http://www.dss.gov.au) website.

For information about the 2015 Budget, visit the [Australian Government budget](http://www.budget.gov.au) website.