

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 30 October 2025

OLDER AUSTRALIANS TO BENEFIT FROM ONCE IN A GENERATION REFORMS TO AGED CARE

The new rights-based Aged Care Act commences this Saturday 1 November, and will afford older Australians with greater independence, autonomy, choice and control regarding their care.

The overhaul of the Act is long overdue generational reform, with demand for aged care projected to grow dramatically due to Australia's ageing population. A new Aged Care Act, framed in rights of the older person, was the number one recommendation of the Royal Commission into Quality and Safety in Aged Care's final report four and a half years ago.

The Act reinforces that older people have the right to make their own decisions, with appropriate support if they need it. For registered supporters, the new regime also introduces clear responsibilities and consequences, ensuring that the autonomy and voice of the older person is respected in all decisions about their care and life.

Older Persons Advocacy Network CEO Craig Gear said the hallmark of the new Act is a Statement of Rights.

"This is an exciting new chapter for the sector, older Australians, carers and providers," Mr Gear said.

"At its core is the recognition that older people remain at the centre of their care, supported by those they trust - whether that's a family member, friend, advocate or provider.

"This is a transformational shift in power dynamics, and it is imperative that older people are empowered to make informed decisions that benefit them."

Along with the new Act comes strengthened quality standards and greater protections for older people receiving aged care. It also sees the commencement of the Support at Home Program which has higher levels of support, more packages and benefits such as restorative care pathways.

There is also an end-of-life pathway to support people who choose to die at home.

"Like with most significant reforms, there will probably be teething issues, as the changes have yet to be tested," Mr Gear said.

"This transition, and the potential for co-payments, may be of concern and people should call the My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 or our Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600 if they feel the changes have affected their ability to receive or pay for aged care in the community.

"But the spirit of the new legislation reflects modern Australia, and we look forward to working with the Government and the wider aged care sector to get this right and so that older people live with dignity and respect.

“We thank the Albanese Government for its commitment to improving our aged care system.”

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When reporting about older people please refer to the [media reporting guidelines](#) and for more information or media enquiries visit our [Media Centre](#).

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEDIA FOR STORIES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE

It is critical to provide older people with an avenue to get support when covering stories about aged care. We strongly encourage you to include the following message in your story to enable older people to seek support:

For information or support regarding aged care, please call the Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600 or visit opan.org.au