

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 20 August 2026

OPAN WELCOMES COMMONWEALTH'S CHSP DECISION

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) welcomes today's announcement by the Albanese Government to retain the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) as a standalone program until 30 June 2029, with further reform to occur.

OPAN CEO Craig Gear said the move is sensible and affords older people greater certainty and continuity of care as we plan ahead for a reformed and accessible entry-level aged care system.

"We welcome this decision as further consultation, collaboration and co-design with older people and the aged care sector is needed by the government before reform to the standalone program can occur," Mr Gear said.

"The decision also gives CHSP providers certainty, allowing them to remain in the market and plan their services into the future.

"CHSP supports 830,000 older people. Whatever the future program structure, it must be easy to enter, have timely access and provide a good pathway from entry-level support into higher level Support at Home.

"This decision is consistent with recommendations made by the Senate Community Affairs Committee in June, and the evidence in our submission and appearance before the CHSP inquiry.

"Although we support reform, the funding model questions raised by the Aged Care Royal Commission must be resolved before any change proceeds.

"There is also an urgent need for increased investment in CHSP now so that it meets its objectives. OPAN member advocates continue to hear from older people who have been approved for CHSP but cannot access services, with providers telling them their books are full or closing.

"We're pleased that the Government has listened and responded appropriately. We look forward to working with them on designing the best primary care and entry-level support program, so that older people can continue to remain in their homes and communities."

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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 open.org.au