



Safeguarding Quality and Rights

The Government is committed to protecting the dignity of older Australians and ensuring that they receive the level of care that the community expects.

As part of the More Choices for a Longer Life Package, the Government is acting to ensure older Australians are better cared for through enhanced regulation and are protected from abuse in any form.

Safeguarding the Quality of Care

The Government is ensuring that older Australians in the aged care system can be confident in the quality of services that will be provided to them.

A new independent **Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission** will be established to bring together aged care regulation, compliance and complaints handling into a single entity. The regulation that safeguards aged care quality will be enhanced to ensure it is sufficient and appropriate, so that risks can be better identified, enabling a faster response to care failures.

As part of this, the Government has announced accreditation visits to residential aged care facilities are being replaced with unannounced audits. This will ensure that safety and quality care standards are maintained at all facilities at all times.

To ensure that older Australians have accurate and easy to access information on the quality of aged care providers, the Government is introducing published performance ratings.

To assist residential aged care providers to improve the quality of their services, a \$50 million **Quality Care Fund** will be established.

Protecting the Rights of Older Australians

The Government is providing \$22 million to protect older Australians from abuse, including by funding trials of specialist elder abuse support services, and has committed to working with the States and Territories to develop a national online register for enduring powers of attorney.

Support will be extended for initiatives already underway, including developing a **National Plan on Elder Abuse** with the States and Territories; undertaking national prevalence research to expand the evidence base on elder abuse; and establishing an online Elder Abuse Knowledge Hub.

Supporting choice to stay in the regions

The Government is supporting older Australians to receive the aged care services they need in regional, rural and remote areas.

Funding of \$105.7 million will be provided to support the **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program** to deliver additional residential aged care places and home care packages in remote Indigenous communities.

Aged care providers in regional, rural and remote Australia will be provided with additional support through \$40 million in capital grants funding.

Providing support across the continuum

The Government is continuing to support older Australians manage their health, including during difficult times.

The More Choices for a Longer Life Package builds on existing supports by:

- Committing \$32.8 million for a trial to improve palliative care for Australians living in residential aged care facilities, contingent on funding being matched by the States and Territories, and
- Providing \$5.3 million to organisations to develop innovative technological solutions to assist those Australians living with dementia, their families and carers to better manage their care.