

ECHO GAZETTE

Helping our community enjoy independent lives in their own homes.

A few words from the CEO



Since my last 'few words' we've entered a new financial year.

It's vital that we pay attention to ECHO's financial viability, so we're able to provide you with quality services into the future. I'm pleased to inform you that ECHO is financially stable and ready for the new year.

In this Gazette, we profile two more areas of our services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. You may find something you could use.

Our very popular Group outings book out quickly. Despite our limited resources, we're trying to make these events available to more people each month. Please be patient while we find a way to make this happen.

Again, please give at least 48-hours' notice to cancel a booking so we can allocate the place to a wait-listed client.

Until next time ...

Stuart Diggins
CEO



*Where else
could your
CHSP funding
take you?*

As we mentioned last month, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) provides small amounts of entry-level support to help older people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) to keep living in their own home.

This month, we're covering two more services for approved CHSP clients: Social Support (Individual) and Home & Garden Maintenance.

Social Support (Individual) aims to help CHSP clients to participate in community life and feel socially included.

The service meets people's need for social contact while supporting their wellness and reablement goals.

Social Support (Individual) is provided by a companion (a paid worker or volunteer) to an individual, either at home or while accessing community services.

> Continued over

We need more volunteer car or bus drivers.

This is a chance to make a real difference to the life of an older person who needs help to get to a medical appointment or who would love to go on a bus outing to local (and some not so local) places with others. Our buses are 12-seaters that only require a standard driver's license. Time commitment is flexible - it's a great way for FIFO workers to do community work while they're back in Perth. **If you, or someone you know, would like to help out, email volunteer.coordinator@echocommunity.org.au or phone 9271-7011.**



> Continued

These CHSP-funded services can include:

- Visiting services
- Telephone and web-based monitoring services to connect you to your community (eg. if you have hearing loss or deafness, low vision or blindness)
- Accompanied activities, such as helping you with shopping, bill-paying, attendance at appointments and other related activities.

Social Support (Individual) is usually provided one-on-one,

but may be provided to more than one person – where social support is provided to a couple, for instance.

Your CHSP funding in this area may allow ECHO to use grant funding to purchase IT equipment, including a tablet, smart device and/or internet connection to help you to connect to your family, carer or social group.

This is capped at \$500 per client per year (or up to \$1,000 in exceptional circumstances). However, this does not include the purchase of a smart phone or phone plans.

Home & Garden Maintenance

focuses on repairs or maintenance of the home and garden to improve your safety, accessibility and independence by minimising environmental health and safety hazards.

An aged-care assessment is important for developing initial plans for these services.

Garden help can include lawn mowing, essential pruning and yard clearance where your safety and access are affected. Safety weeding is included but not 'fine weeding'. These are basic services primarily for function and safety, not for aesthetic effect.

Secure access issues for your personal safety can be included, such as locks, lock-boxes and smoke alarms.

Please talk to your ECHO Client Advisor about any ECHO services you may wish to add to those you currently receive.

If you aren't receiving Social Support (Individual) or Home & Garden Maintenance services, do ask about these as well.

Phone
Email
Website
Facebook
LinkedIn
Office

9271 7011
info@echocommunity.org.au
www.echocommunity.org.au
/echocommunitywa
/echo-community-services
72 Toowong Street, Bayswater WA 6053

