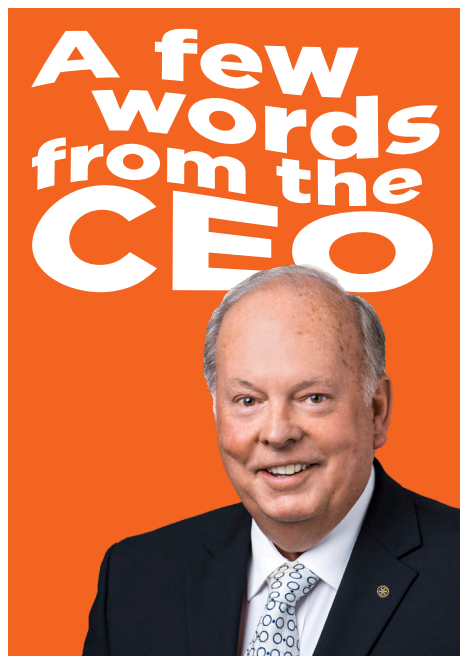


ECHO GAZETTE

Helping our community enjoy independent lives in their own homes.



October already and the year is disappearing quickly!

There seems to be considerable truth in the belief that time travels faster as we age – at least for me.

The Bill for a new Aged Care Act was introduced into the House of Representatives on Thursday 12 September. This commenced the parliamentary process toward a new regulatory system for aged care in Australia.

In this month's Gazette we provide some short detail on items important to your care. I hope this information will be of use to you.

There is also a separate information sheet on the ECHO Client Christmas Lunch, this year to be held on Friday 29 November.

Until next time ...

Stuart Diggins
CEO



Give us a heads up if you're heading out

Please contact your ECHO Client Advisor as soon as you know you are going into hospital or on holidays.

This enables your Advisor to notify all parts of ECHO that you'll be away from home. It can also save a Support Worker an accidental scheduled arrival at your home to deliver a service when you're not there.

We also appreciate a call when you're running late from another appointment and won't be at home when your service has been scheduled.

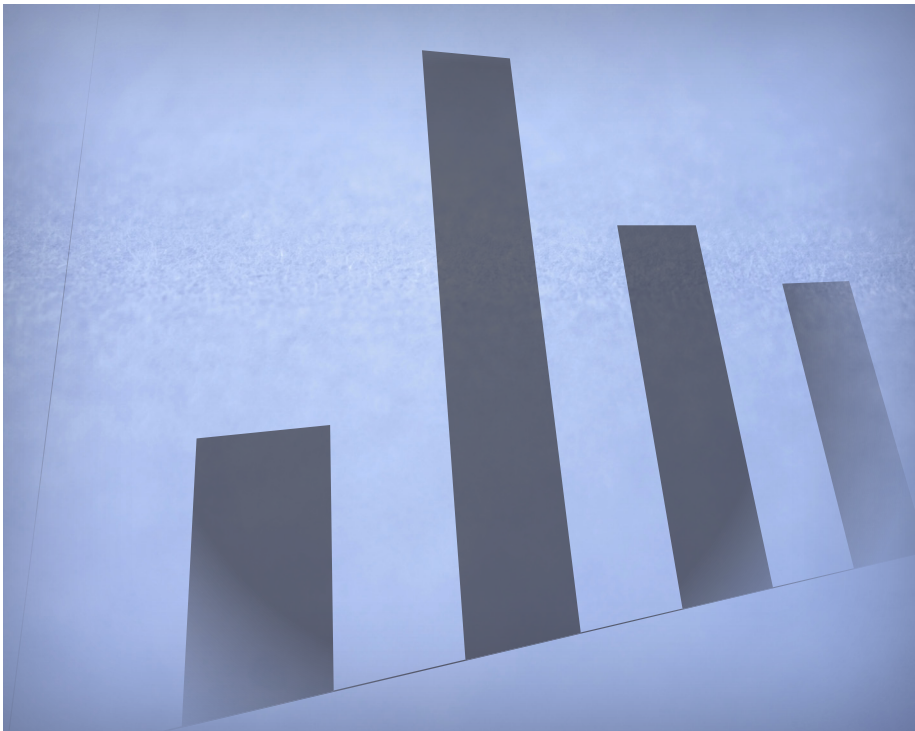
This contact from you also avoids a charge we have to make for scheduled service visits cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice (except in the case of emergencies).

Dementia Partnership

To improve our level of knowledge in the in-home care of those with dementia, ECHO has entered a partnership with Alzheimer's WA, who have Australian Government funding to run this project in Western Australia.

Many of our staff will be involved in awareness and education sessions to lift our knowledge.

During the course of this partnership – running initially for a six-month period – we plan to include families and carers of ECHO clients with an opportunity to learn more about dementia and how to help dementia sufferers with their daily needs.



Need a lift?

ECHO's transport services now have extra capacity to help our CHSP clients stay in touch with their community.

This can include helping you with activities like attending medical appointments or community groups – so you can stay active and social.

These CHSP-funded services are generally for transport from your home and back again.

If you need a lift somewhere give us a call to book on 9271 7011. We'd appreciate it if you could give us at least one week's notice.

What makes for quality in-home aged care services?

ECHO has recently joined a pilot program to test a series of potential Quality Indicators for in-home aged care services.

The aim is to make sure that these indicators are practical, relevant and effective in improving the quality of services.

The Department of Health and Aged Care has hired a firm called HealthConsult to recruit a representative sample of 150 service providers funded under the Home Care Packages program (HCP), the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), and the Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Programme.

As ECHO delivers services under both the HCP and CHSP programmes, we've been selected to take part. We'll let you know how it goes.

ECHO's 2024 AGM

The 2024 AGM of Extended Community Help Organisation Inc. (ECHO) will be held at our offices at 72 Toowong Street, Bayswater, at 5.00pm on Thursday 31 October.

Full details are in Latest News on ECHO's website: www.echocommunity.org.au

We need more volunteer bus assistants.

We need more bus assistants to support our clients getting on and off our 12-seater buses and then assisting with any needs on a bus outing to a place of interest or entertainment, or on the twice-weekly shopping bus expeditions to local shopping centres. On these outings, our volunteers receive a subsidy towards their lunch. **If you, or someone you know, would like to help out, email volunteer.coordinator@echocommunity.org.au or phone 9271 7011.**

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