

ECHO GAZETTE

Helping our community enjoy independent lives in their own homes.

A few words from the CEO



The warm weather continues... but the days are shortening as we head towards Winter.

Time to start thinking about your 2025 'flu shot – the instance of influenza in the community is reported to be double what it was at this time last year.

Change is certainly in the wind and this month's ECHO Gazette explains the new Support at Home program coming into operation from 1 July 2025. There will be changes, large and small, to be implemented – most by providers like ECHO, but some by you.

We'll direct you to helpful information on the new program, so you can familiarise yourself with the changes that impact you.

Until next time ...

Stuart Diggins
CEO

HERE COMES THE NEW SYSTEM THE

The pointy-end of preparation for the new 'Support at Home' program is now upon us.

The new 'Support at Home' program will replace the Home Care Packages Program and Short-Term Restorative Care Program from 1 July 2025.

'Support at Home' will improve access to services, equipment and home modifications to help older people remain healthy, active and socially connected to their community.

Sometime after 1 July 2027 the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will also transition to the new program.

There is much to learn, but fortunately a large amount of material has been produced to help you. Much of this material is available on the internet – we'll provide links for you.

There are three publications of the Department of Health and

Aged Care that provide a good start in explaining the changes.

The first publication covers the **Statement of Rights** for older people accessing aged care services. This statement helps to make sure you are at the centre of your aged care.

It gives you the right to:

- make your own decisions about your own life
- have your decisions not just accepted, but respected
- get information and support to help you make decisions
- communicate your wishes, needs and preferences
- feel safe and respected
- have your culture and identity respected
- stay connected with your community.

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The link to access this Statement of Rights is:

www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/a-new-aged-care-act-for-the-rights-of-older-people_1.pdf



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to go directly to this link.

The publication **‘About the Aged Care Act 2024’** explains the background of the Act, which was a response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

The new Act responds to 58 recommendations from the Royal Commission. It also makes laws about:

- a Statement of Rights for older people
- who can access aged care services
- funding of aged care services delivered under the new Act, including what the government will pay and what an older person can be asked to pay
- the ‘Support at Home’ program
- strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards
- stronger powers for the regulator, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

‘About the Aged Care Act 2024’ can be accessed at:

www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-01/about-the-aged-care-act-2024-plain-language-fact-sheet.pdf



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to go directly to this link.

An Easy Read version of ‘About the Aged Care Act 2024’ written by the Department of Health and Aged Care is at this link:

www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-01/about-the-aged-care-act-2024-fact-sheet-easy-read.pdf



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In coming months as useful information becomes available, we will share location information with you.

It is also likely that your ECHO Client Advisor will have information to share. Should you have questions do not hesitate to contact your Client Advisor for assistance.



Older people need to drink more... water.

It’s important to remember to keep yourself well hydrated at all times.

The days are still quite warm – in the high 20’s – and it doesn’t take long to become dehydrated in a hot house or when outside for long periods.

Make sure you have a quenching fluid with you at all times – dehydration can be serious for an older person.

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