

ECHO GAZETTE

Helping our community enjoy independent lives in their own homes.

A few words from the CEO



Did you know that we expect around 90,000 Australians to turn 80 next year?

In a 2 June interview, the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Hon. Sam Rae, said this is up sixfold in 15 years.

This increase is impacting the waiting time for support packages and other items to be approved.

In this Gazette we look into the first waiting time statistics released since the commencement of Support at Home - recently published by the Australian Government.

Please do all you can to stay safe and warm as we enter the Winter months.

Until next time ...

Stuart Diggins
CEO

The Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Wait Times Report

On 12 May, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing released the first Aged Care Act 2024 Wait Times Report.

The report covered both residential care and Support at Home.

The data show a median time of 347 days between application or Support Plan Review and service commencement.

This relates to people who started ongoing Support at

Home between its introduction on 1 November 2025 and 31 March 2026.

For new Support at Home applicants, the start date is the date the person applied through My Aged Care.

For people already in the Support at Home program, the start date is the beginning of a Support Plan Review (SPR) undertaken prior to their service commencing.

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We need volunteer bus drivers, bus assistants and client transport drivers.

We need more volunteers to help us help others. • Drivers to drive and support our clients on our 12-seater buses. • Assistants to help with any client needs on a bus outing, or on our twice-weekly shopping bus expeditions to local shopping centres. • Client transport drivers using their own vehicle or one of ours. **If you, or someone you know, would like to help out, email volunteer.coordinator@echocommunity.org.au or phone 9271 7011.**



The following table shows the average and median number of days and months between application and commencement of services in a community setting:

Service Type	Measurement	Days	Months
Support at Home (ongoing)	Average	364	12
	Median	347	12
Assistive Technology	Average	123	4
	Median	101	3
Home Modifications	Average	123	4
	Median	102	3
End-of-Life Pathway	Average	35	1
	Median	15	<1
Restorative Care Pathway	Average	182	6
	Median	163	5

These first figures set a benchmark for us to assess the expected improvements to come, as the additional 83,000 packages released in 2025-26, and the 32,000 packages in the 2026-27 Budget, are fully allocated and taken up.

Assistive Technology and Home Modification are separately funded in addition to your Support at Home package funding. Wait times for these services will be of interest to ECHO’s SAH participants who need this support.

Keep these average waiting times in mind when you make your application. Unfortunately ECHO can’t control how long you will wait for your application to be determined and funded.

Please discuss your Assistive Technology or Home Modification needs with your ECHO Care Partner so we can start planning early.

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