

Aged Care Rules – Consolidated Draft Rules Relating to Funding

Dementia Australia Submission, February 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the Aged Care Draft Rules Relating to Funding.

Dementia Australia has previously made recommendations in relation to the funding models for both Residential Care and the new Support at Home program which remain relevant.

We have noted that the lower subsidy basis for non-clinical care in the Support at Home program may disadvantage people living with dementia for whom independence and everyday living services are essential care.

Our key concern in relation to the Consolidated Draft Rules Relating to Funding remains that the Dementia and Cognition Supplement is not included in the funding model.

The current Dementia and Cognition Supplement for home care assists providers with the cost of caring for people with moderate to severe symptoms of dementia. It is a critical component of the funding model for in-home support, allowing people living with dementia and higher needs to remain in their homes for longer and avoid premature entry to residential aged care.

Dementia Australia seeks clarification from the Department of Health and Aged Care about the status of the Dementia and Cognition Supplement in the new Support at Home program.

If it is intended that the Dementia and Cognition Supplement be replaced by the higher-level classifications in the new Support at Home program, we would appreciate advice on how assessment will identify dementia-related higher care needs and ensure that an appropriate classification is given.

We would also seek assurance that funding packages for new higher classification levels are comparable to the subsidy level currently provided through the Dementia and Cognition Supplement.

We look forward to receiving your response. Dementia Australia's Executive Director Services, Advocacy and Research, Dr Kaele Stokes, can be reached at [**kaele.stokes@dementia.org.au**](mailto:kaele.stokes@dementia.org.au)