

Residential Aged Care Pricing 2026

Dementia Australia Policy Position Summary

September 2026

What needs to change?

- People living with dementia are finding it increasingly difficult to access residential aged care and respite due to shortages of places, workforce capability and pricing arrangements that do not fully reflect the cost of dementia care.
- Current funding models may not adequately support people with complex dementia needs, particularly those who are independently mobile and have changed behaviour.
- Dementia Australia is recommending that Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority review the aged care classification system and pricing to ensure funding accurately reflects the cost of providing quality dementia care including residential respite, dementia workforce training and the delivery of specialised dementia care services.

If actioned, what impact could these recommendations have?

- People living with dementia and carers could have better access to residential aged care and respite services that meet their needs.
- Providers could be better supported to deliver high-quality dementia care, improving care outcomes and reducing pressure on carers and the broader health system.

How has Dementia Australia advocated for this position?

- Made a submission to the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority consultation on the Pricing Framework for Australian Residential Aged Care Services 2027-28.

What's next?

- We will continue to advocate for pricing and funding models that enable quality dementia care.