

Federal Budget 2026-27: Webinar Q&A Frequently Asked Questions

As at 22 May 2026

This Q&A summary is of the question topics shared at the webinar. The greatest member interest was in Support at Home package numbers, price caps, CHSP, end-of-life pathway changes and residential accommodation settings. Responses are provided below, noting that some details are still being clarified.

Ageing Australia will continue to provide further information as details become available.

Key member questions and updates

Home and community care

Support at Home places: Our understanding remains that the portfolio measure is 40,000 places. The Department has advised that if a person accesses both AT-HM and ongoing Support at Home, this is treated as one place. In addition, places will be released according to prioritisation rather than the old Home Care Packages cadence. The reference to 'bringing forward' Support at Home places means that some packages allocated for 2026-27, are being bought forward to the current financial year.

Price caps: Ageing Australia has successfully advocated for the deferral of price caps, with the Federal Government announcing that Support at Home price caps will be deferred until 1 July 2027. Our [Member Alert](#), acknowledges the support of members in securing this outcome, following sustained and proactive advocacy by Ageing Australia. At the time of the Federal Budget webinar on 14 May, this deferral announcement was still pending.

End-of-Life Pathway: The Budget confirms an extension for participants who continue to need support beyond the initial end-of-life funding period. Our current understanding is that the period for which a person can access the program will double, and funding will increase accordingly. It is likely that this change will commence during the first quarter of 2027, and the department is working on the detail needed to operationalise this program improvement.

Personal care: Through the Federal Budget announcements, the Government has confirmed that all services under the personal care service type will move into the Clinical Supports contribution category from 1 October 2026. This is a significant win, which Ageing Australia has pursued alongside consumer peak bodies. The Department will be seeking feedback from the sector on the changes organisations will need to make to implement this program improvement.

Minimum Service Offer (MSO): MSO remains a feature of Support at Home. Ageing Australia encourages providers to continue sharing examples of participants experiencing extended periods on a Minimum Service Offer, and participant and organisational impacts of this reduced level of funding.

Care management: Ageing Australia will continue to call for increased care management funding across all classifications including the Minimum Service Offers, to better reflect the actual level of care planning and coordination required to support participants.

CHSP funding and transition: CHSP did not receive a major new standalone Budget package. Existing program arrangements continue, including extension of Sector Support and Development funding agreements to 30 June 2027. At this stage, there is no open CHSP growth round and no clear Budget allocation for CHSP transition support. Ageing Australia's position remains that any transition to Support at Home or changes to the CHSP program design should not proceed until Support at Home implementation issues are addressed and viability settings are strengthened.

Single Assessment System and IAT

Assessment capacity and algorithms: Budget funding for Support at Home refinements includes assessments. Our understanding from departmental discussions is that this includes review work on the algorithm within the assessment tool, including classification and prioritisation weightings. It is less clear at this stage whether there will be a significant expansion in assessment workforce capacity, so that remains a watchpoint.

Residential Aged Care

Capital Assistance: The \$384.4 million for the Budget measure for capital subsidies only responds to some of the recommendations relating to capital assistance arising from the Independent Review into Residential Aged Care Pricing (the Review). There has not yet been a commitment to support all capital expansion recommendations from the Review, such as interest-free loans. However, Ageing Australia understands that Government will be engaging in further discussions with the sector on these recommendations for future consideration, and we continue to seek detail on this.

In relation to specific questions on capital subsidies raised at the webinar:

- the new \$30 per supported resident per day payment for new homes is not subject to the 40% supported resident proportion hurdle.
- there is currently no specified value per bed for significant improvements or refurbishments. The \$15 capital subsidy per supported resident per day announced in the Budget only applies to home expansion by at least 40%.

Accommodation Supplements: The Budget has also provisioned funding to increase the accommodation supplement by \$5 per supported resident per day for all homes from March 2027. Ageing Australia recognises that this is lower than the \$13 we recommended, and will continue to advocate for policy settings and funding levels that support the true cost of providing accommodation and the investment required to support expansion and development.

AN-ACC and wage outcomes: There was no specific Budget announcement on AN-ACC pricing or the next wage-related adjustments. As discussed in the webinar, these settings are generally dealt with later in the year, once Fair Work Commission outcomes are clearer. Members should expect more relevant detail closer to October rather than in the Budget papers.

Provider investment

Services and Systems funding: Members enquired about a breakdown of the \$565.1 million attributed to services and systems investments verbalised during the webinar. Ageing Australia's [2026-27 Federal Budget Analysis](#) contains a summary of those budget measures described during the webinar.

Provider viability program: The Budget contains a line commitment of \$51.3 million for 2026-27 to extend aged care provider viability support programs, out of an estimated \$109.2 million for providers. Further detail on the distribution of this funding to existing programs is not yet known, and Ageing Australia continues to seek clarifications from the Department.