



A new Aged Care Act

Fact sheet for older people



The aged care system is changing, and we want to hear from you.



The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) is developing a new Aged Care Act that will put the rights of older people at the centre of our aged care system.

The new Act will follow the journey of older people in the system and prioritise their needs. It will clearly set out the responsibilities of aged care providers and protect the rights of older people to safe, quality care.



What's changing?

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that the current Aged Care Act is no longer fit for purpose.

The new Act will:

- create a simple, single-entry point to make access to the aged care system for older people easier
- include a fair, culturally safe single assessment process
- include rules on supported decision-making to ensure older people have choice and control
- provide additional protections for whistle-blowers to allow reporting without fear of reprisal
- introduce a new approach to regulating aged care providers to ensure delivery of safe, quality aged care services
- strengthen the powers of the regulator, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, to manage risk, ensure integrity and support aged care.

When will the new Act start?

The new Aged Care Act is subject to being passed in Parliament.



Consultation

The draft of the new Act (called the exposure draft) is now available for public consultation. The department is seeking input and feedback from older people, their families and carers.

Your feedback will help to shape the new Act before it is introduced in Parliament in 2024. Consultation will close on Friday 16 February 2024.

You can contribute to consultation on the new Act by:

- attending a workshop and talking to the department directly about what is important to you
- completing a survey online or calling **1800 318 209** to have your say
- email AgedCareLegislativeReform@health.gov.au.

Register for a workshop or access the online survey at:
www.health.gov.au/aged-care-act-consultation.

If you need assistance to fill out the survey or contribute to consultation, you can use:

- National Relay Service:
www.accesshub.gov.au
- Translating and Interpreting Service:
www.tisnational.gov.au.

Further information

There are several ways to get more information on the draft Act and consultation. You can:

- read the detailed Exposure Draft consultation paper or plain English summary
- attend an online webinar and ask questions
- explore information and stories on how the new Act will impact older people, their families and carers including those with a First Nations or culturally and linguistically diverse background, and aged care providers and workers
- review the frequently asked questions.



Read the consultation papers, impact stories, answers to questions or register for a webinar at:
www.health.gov.au/aged-care-act-consultation.



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Write

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