



A new Aged Care Act

Provider fact sheet



Have your say and help shape the future of aged care



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 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that the current *Aged Care Act 1997* is no longer fit for purpose.

The new Aged Care Act will replace existing aged care legislation, including the [Aged Care Act 1997](#) and [Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Act 2018](#).



What's changing?

The Royal Commission found that the current Aged Care Act is structured around providers and how to fund them – not about the people accessing services and what they need. 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.

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 an exposure draft) is now available for public consultation.

Anyone can contribute to the consultation, including older people, their families and carers, aged care providers and workers, researchers, experts and anyone interested in Australia's aged care system.

Consultation will close on Friday 16 February 2024.

There are several ways to get involved and contribute to consultation on the new Act. You can:

- attend a workshop and talk to the department directly about what is important to you
- complete a survey online or call **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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