

## Legislated Review of Aged Care, 2017 (Tune Report) - Summary

The Legislated Review of Aged Care 2017, led by Mr David Tune, was tabled in Parliament in September.

The scope of the Report was confined to aspects of the *Living Longer, Living Better* reforms rather than the aged care system more generally. For this reason, there are several important aspects of aged care that were not reviewed in depth, including quality and safety issues, the Aged Care Funding Instrument, the Commonwealth Home Support Program and palliative care.

The Review addressed the following nine matters:

1. whether unmet demand for residential and home care places has been reduced.
2. whether the number and mix of places for residential care and home care should continue to be controlled.
3. whether further steps could be taken to change key aged care services from a supply driven model to a consumer demand driven model.
4. the effectiveness of means testing arrangements for aged care services, including an assessment of the alignment of charges across residential care and home care services.
5. the effectiveness of arrangements for regulating prices for aged care accommodation.
6. the effectiveness of arrangements for protecting equity of access to aged care services for different population groups.
7. the effectiveness of workforce strategies in aged care services, including strategies for the education, recruitment, retention and funding of aged care workers.
8. the effectiveness of arrangements for protecting refundable deposits and accommodation bonds.
9. the effectiveness of arrangements for facilitating access to aged care services.

A total of 38 recommendations were made and of relevance to local government are the following:

That the government:

1. increase the number of home care packages and rebalance the mix of lower and higher packages, including moving resources from residential to home care. This includes introducing a new level 5 package. (Announced an additional 6,000 packages).
2. introduce mandatory consumer contributions for services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme with contributions standardised according to an individual's financial capacity.
3. provide consumer support services such as 'system navigators' and 'outreach services' to help consumers connect to, access and find their way through the My Aged Care system and improve the functionality and performance of the My Aged Care ICT platform. (Additional \$20M)
4. integrate the Regional Assessment Service and Aged Care Assessment Team into a single, independent process.
5. improve access to wellness and reablement activities to support consumers to live independently

Other recommendations included:

- strengthening the aged care workforce through education, training and development of a workforce strategy.
- reviewing respite arrangements, to make sure that there is enough respite and that access is equitable for carers of older people; and
- improve access to aged care for Indigenous and CALD Australians.

The Government said it will consider all 38 recommendations but has already ruled out two, being:

1. changes to the means test involving the family home (R13); and
2. abolishing annual and life time caps on fees in residential care (R15).

A copy of the report can be found on the Australian Government Department of Health website:

<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/legislated-review-of-aged-care-2017-report>