

Southern Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Positive Ageing Taskforce

✉ PO Box 11, Victor Harbor, SA 5211 | ☎ (08) 8551 0571 | email: mfuller@victor.sa.gov.au | www.victor.sa.gov.au/flourishing

PROJECT OFFICER REPORT – February 2022

Nankeri Nanggi (Good day)

Welcome to 2022... I hope you were all able to take some time off work during the Christmas - new year period to spend with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued participation with the Positive Ageing Taskforce. I look forward to working with you all again this year, as we navigate the new aged care reforms and continue to adjust to the ever-changing covid-19 requirements.

To access Positive Ageing Taskforce information, visit our Taskforce webpage www.victor.sa.gov.au/flourishing

2022 Taskforce Membership

Our Taskforce membership continues to grow, we currently have 124 active members. If you need to update any of your contact details please email mfuller@victor.sa.gov.au. If you know of any service providers, agencies or other key stakeholders who would like to participate in the Taskforce, please feel free to forward my contact details. The Taskforce Membership Form is available online at www.victor.sa.gov.au/flourishing. Also, if you no longer wish to be a member of the Taskforce, please advise and we can remove your contact details from the network.

1 - Ageing and Aged Care Communication from/to Department of Health

- **Information about ageing and aged care** is available via the Department website <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/aged-care>

This content is primarily directed at providers, assessors, and peak groups while [My Aged Care](#) remains the primary source of information for consumers.

Here are some useful links:

- News and Announcements: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/aged-care/providing-aged-care-services/news-and-announcements-for-the-aged-care-sector>
- Subscribe to newsletter: <https://www.health.gov.au/using-our-websites/subscriptions/subscribe-to-aged-care-sector-announcements-and-newsletters>
- Webinars: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/aged-care/aged-care-resources/webinars-for-the-aged-care-sector>
- Publications: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/aged-care/aged-care-resources>
- Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission website: <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/>
- Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission newsletter: <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news-centre/newsletter>

These links are also available on the flourishing webpage www.victor.sa.gov.au/flourishing

- **Aged Care Reform Webinars:** The Department of Health are hosting a series of aged care reform webinars on various topics. To see what's coming up or watch past webinars, visit: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/aged-care/aged-care-resources/webinars-for-the-aged-care-sector>. You do not need to RSVP for live webinars and there's no limit to the number of participants who can attend.

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- **Improved Payment Arrangements: January key tips:** Below are tips to help with your Home Care Package program claims. By 28 February 2022, you must decide whether to opt-in for each care recipient who was in your care before 1 September 2021.

Mandatory reporting of Commonwealth unspent funds:

- If the care recipient is opted in, report the Commonwealth unspent amount only once.
- If not opted in, **continue** reporting the Commonwealth unspent funds held for each care recipient each month before finalising your claim.
- You need to report Commonwealth unspent funds even if the balance is \$0. You have up to 70 days from a care recipient's departure to adjust care events, finalise outstanding invoice amounts and submit as part of your monthly claim. For more information go to the [Q&A fact sheet](#).

- **Reminder: Home Care Package providers can access grant funding for COVID-19 vaccination support:** The Home Care Packages (HCP) Program COVID-19 Vaccination Support Grant (Grant), has been extended and now closes on 29 April 2022. Approved home care providers can apply now to cover costs incurred between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022. Grants will be offered at a provider level (not for each service outlet) with capped funding based on the number of HCP recipients in your care at 5 November 2021.

Providers can use the grant to cover costs related to:

- facilitating and encouraging workforce COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster doses
- coverage of costs for staff to take leave to get a COVID-19 vaccination or if they are sick after a COVID-19 vaccination
- collecting the COVID-19 vaccination status data of your HCP workforce, and improving data quality
- ICT-related and professional advice costs to set-up processes and systems to track and report the COVID-19 vaccination status of your HCP workforce.
- The funding can be used to support your permanent and casual staff, as well as volunteers and subcontractors.

For the grant opportunity guidelines and frequently asked questions, see the Grant Opportunity (GO5216) on [GrantConnect](#). You can also email the Department of Health for further information at Grant.ATM@health.gov.au.

- **Rapid Antigen Tests for Home Care Packages Program:** The Government is taking action to ensure adequate supply of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for the community including those providing and receiving in-home care. The Government continues to assess the need for additional measures for high risk groups in light of the current Omicron outbreak.

Providers may choose to conduct testing of direct care home care workers as part of their COVID Safe plan, to ensure the ongoing provision of safe care for senior Australians. Home Care Package (HCP) providers who test home care workers can access support to cover the costs of purchasing RAT kits for this purpose. Workers should not need to be tested more than once per day and

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may wish to carry photographic proof of a negative test. Responsibility for the supply of RAT kits and oversight of testing for workers should generally sit with the provider, not the care recipient.

HCP providers can use HCP funds to cover the costs of purchasing RAT kits:

- Care management fees may be temporarily increased to cover the costs of purchasing RAT kits for testing of home care workers. Providers must notify affected care recipients of the increased fee and give them an opportunity to opt out. Costs must be reasonable and justifiable.
- Providers can use HCP funds to reimburse care recipients for RAT kits purchased by the care recipient where they are used to meet the person's aged care needs, such as supporting delivery of aged care services. Where a care recipient requires RATs for personal use, most will be to access free RATs under the Government's provision for concession card holders.

Further guidance is available on the [Managing home care through COVID-19 webpage](#).

HCP providers who have been directly impacted by COVID-19 (have staff or clients who have tested positive to COVID-19 or are in isolation due to COVID-19 exposure) may be eligible to apply for the COVID-19 Aged Care Support Program Extension grant (**GO4863**). This grant reimburses approved aged care providers for eligible expenditure incurred in managing the direct impacts of COVID-19. For more information see the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions on [GrantConnect](#).

The Government continues to adjust guidance and consider additional measures as circumstances change.


3 - Workforce Development & Training and Resources

- o **Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) resources:** including fact sheets available here <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/commonwealth-home-support-programme-chsp/commonwealth-home-support-programme-chsp-resources>
- o **KeepAble Website:** KeepAble <https://www.keepable.com.au/> is an online collaborative hub for practical content that supports home and community care providers to deliver wellness and reablement approaches.
- o **CHSP Reablement Community of Practice:** The Reablement Community of Practice is available as a tool for CHSP providers to learn, share and engage with other providers across the CHSP sector. It is an online forum to support you and your colleagues to share ideas, best practice and practical examples to embed wellness and reablement into your everyday service delivery practices.
You can join the Reablement Community of Practice here: <https://www.more-good-days.com.au/login> If you have any difficulties joining the online forum, email: WellnessandReablement@health.gov.au

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- **Centre for Cultural Diversity webinar series:** The Centre for Cultural Diversity's [2022 webinar series](#) begins in February.
Topics include:
 - Inclusive Leadership
 - Diversity Strategies within the Aged Care Sector, showcasing the approach of several aged care providers to developing a diversity plan
 - Applying a Diversity Lens to End of Life Care.You can also visit the [2021 Diversity Webinar Series](#) page for recordings and slides from past presentations. These include webinars about how to work effectively with interpreters, and using translations to connect with culturally diverse audiences in aged care.
- **ACSA Training Workshops:**
For further training and professional development opportunities please visit: <https://www.agedservicesworkforce.com.au/events/list/>
Most training workshops accrue CPD, relevant CPD for each workshop is listed on website.
- **Fleurieu, Hills, Riverland Mallee, Southern regions Forum - Let's dive into... WORKFORCE:**
On 22 October 2021 we hosted a combined regions Aged Care Workforce Forum at Chiton Rocks Surf Lifesaving Club (Hayborough, Victor Harbor). A Summary Report from the day, along with presentations, photos and other resources are available at www.victor.sa.gov.au/flourishing under the *Let's dive into... WORKFORCE! Forum 2021* tab.
- **Aged Care Workforce Census Report:** The [2020 Aged Care Workforce Census Report](#) provides a benchmark for the Government and the sector on the size and growth of the aged care workforce, as well as the attributes and skills central to the delivery of quality aged care.
Key findings include:
 - 32 per cent increase in direct care workers in residential aged care facilities
 - 80 per cent of residential aged care facilities report having a registered nurse on duty overnight
 - 66 per cent of personal care workers in residential aged care facilities hold a Certificate III or higher in a relevant direct care field
 - a workforce which continues to get younger, with half of the residential aged care workforce aged under 40.
- **2021 CEDA Report - Duty of Care: Meeting the Aged Care Workforce Challenge**
This report from the Committee for Economic Development of Australia is available here: <https://www.ceda.com.au/ResearchAndPolicies/Research/Health-Ageing/Duty-of-care-Meeting-the-aged-care-workforce-chall>
- **A Life Changing Life Campaign:** The Australian Government is committed to growing a skilled and sustainable care and support workforce. The Department of Social Services has partnered with SEEK as part of the [A Life Changing Life campaign](#).



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OTHER

- 4 COVID-19 Response:** Government of SA COVID Response Updates and COVID-19 Measures are located here <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/response>
- 5 South Australian's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025:** For more information and resources on *South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025*, see www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/planforageingwell
- 6 Advance Care Directive Support for Fleurieu region:** The District Council of Yankalilla, City of Victor Harbor, and Alexandrina Council are currently working together to explore options to re-establish a sustainable model of support for community for completion of Advance Care Directives. We will keep you updated on the development of this.

Next Positive Ageing Taskforce network meeting:

Please join us for our next network meeting, being held on **Tuesday 8 February** commencing 12.00 noon, this meeting will be held via Zoom. Rob Crouch from Dementia Australia will be our presenter and will provide information about current and upcoming dementia programs and services available in the Fleurieu region. Meeting documents will be distributed via email.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86504957657?pwd=V0RqMFIEUld3MEExeVQxcXNsY2NVdz09>
Meeting ID: 865 0495 7657 Passcode: 184431

Michelle Fuller

Project Officer - Southern Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Positive Ageing Taskforce

01/02/2022

2022 SFKI POSITIVE AGEING TASKFORCE NETWORK MEETING DATES

- Tuesday 8 February 12 noon – 2 pm
- Tuesday 12 April 12 noon – 2 pm
- Tuesday 14 June 12 noon – 2 pm
- Tuesday 9 August 12 noon – 2 pm
- Tuesday 4 October 12 noon – 2 pm
- Tuesday 6 December 12 noon – 2 pm