More skilled workers providing appropriate care

Older Australians need a skilled, diverse and valued workforce to provide safe and high-quality care. The Australian Government is growing and supporting the aged care workforce to meet the needs and expectations   
of Australians.

What we’re doing

Our initiatives respond to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recommendations, including:

* helping aged care providers to recruit workers
* increasing training and professional development opportunities
* putting a national code of conduct and registration in place
* enabling scholarships and incentives for registered nurses.

The aged care workforce is fundamental to accessing care where and when it is needed.

How we’re growing the workforce

* Supporting a real pay increase for workers that reflects the true value of this work.
* More opportunities for training at TAFEs and universities.
* Priority visa processing for nurses and recruitment of personal care workers from our Pacific neighbours.
* A free, independent service for aged care providers to improve and develop workforce planning.

Increasing the number of home care workers

Most people want to stay in their homes for as long as possible.

We are helping aged care providers to recruit and train 13,000 new personal care workers to care for older Australians at home. Expanding career opportunities nationally will increase home care in all locations, including in regional, rural and remote communities.

Putting more nurses into aged care homes

More nurses in residential aged care homes means more clinical care for residents.

From July 2023, we’ll have a registered nurse onsite 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

From October 2024, we’ll make sure aged care providers deliver an average 215 minutes of care per day for residents, including 44 minutes with a registered nurse.

We will attract and retain aged care nurses and personal care workers by encouraging career pathways through education opportunities, a nurses’ bonus and supporting an increase in wages.

Boosting aged care worker skills

‘Working in aged care is amazing – we build relationships with our residents and their families.’

Khera, aged care nurse practioner

We are boosting the skills of aged care workers through training programs, scholarships, mentoring of new nurses and supporting clinical placements.

Workers will be better skilled in areas such as dementia care, managing wounds, preventing falls, infection prevention and control, and supporting mental health and wellbeing of older Australians.