



Support for Senate inquiry into Home Care package delays

29 July 2025

National Seniors Australia (NSA) has welcomed a Senate inquiry into Home Care packages to examine the impact of delaying the Support at Home program and withholding new Home Care packages.

NSA Chief Executive Officer Mr Chris Grice said while the peak consumer body understands the need to delay commencement of the new Aged Care Act from July 1 to November 1, this doesn't mean the government needs to delay the release of new packages, promised to be released from July 1.

"The new Aged Care Act acknowledges older people want to stay in their own homes for longer so they can remain healthy, active, and socially connected. It also acknowledges older Australians increasingly want the freedom, support, and choice to remain in the home and community they love," Mr Grice said.

"These inspiring ideals – to help older Australians remain safe and independent in their own homes as they age, are not possible without the urgent release of more home care packages.

"While the wait list decreased since June 2019, wait times have shot up since 2023, with approximately 88,000 people now waiting for a home care package.

"We need to remember when we're talking about *packages*, we're talking about *people*. Vulnerable people in desperate need of support at home; support to stay out of aged care; support to leave hospital; support to relieve family members who have become carers, and it wouldn't be a stretch to say support they need to survive.

"These 88,000 older Australians are why NSA supports the Senate inquiry and why we are also calling for the **immediate increase in home care packages to reduce the wait list to 25,000 people.**

"Clearing the wait list was a recommendation of the Aged Care Royal Commission, and one NSA sees as a top priority for the Federal Government.

"We support the Senate inquiry and look forward to making a submission on behalf of every older Australian waiting for care, their families, and carers."

Media enquiries Media & Corporate Communications Manager Anna Townend 0488 047 380