



TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR PROMISED CASH MANDATE

29 September 2025

National Seniors Australia (NSA) is reminding the Federal Treasurer that time is running out for government to legislate the promised cash mandate due 1 January 2026.

“Bringing legislation into Parliament and processing it through to law takes time and with just three sitting weeks between now and Christmas, the pressure is on the government to keep its promise,” NSA Chief Executive Officer Chris Grice said.

“As a peak consumer advocacy body leading the KEEP CASH campaign, NSA, together with our 273,000 community members, welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the government’s mandating cash acceptance consultation back in February.

“Seniors, like most people, value the convenience of card payments; but as a key part of the payments and financial system, cash must be accessible and accepted.

“As detailed in our [submission](#), we need to keep cash for a range of reasons including reliability during outages; privacy, security, and trust; and budgeting. Cash can be easier for people living with a disability to use; it allows for small payments to children, grandchildren as well as charities; and it negates bank charges and card charges.

“While NSA congratulated the government for taking this step to ensure cash remains accepted, we were disappointed by the extent of the potential limitations. Exactly what items are deemed ‘essential’ goods and services are restricted. Details such as how the mandate will operate in practice, how it will be enforced and communicated, supports for small businesses, and impacts in regional areas need to be determined.

“We’re also disappointed that despite government setting a clear time frame for updates, it’s almost October and we have heard nothing.

“NSA accepts the need for the government to get the mandate and processes around it right, but we can’t understand why the government hasn’t delivered on its promise to provide more information about the mandate, its progress, and how it will work.”

On Valentine’s Day in February this year, NSA took over a [billboard](#) with a poem that read, “Roses are red, violets are blue. Dear Treasurer, KEEP CASH, banks, and ATMS too!”

The poem has been updated to read, “Roses are red, violets are blue. Dear Treasurer, please follow through. The Cash Mandate’s soon due!”

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“Behind these light-hearted messages is a serious message about the need to keep cash, banks, and ATMs for older Australians and others who rely on and use cash and traditional banking services,” Mr Grice said.

“We need to KEEP CASH, banks, and ATMs and hope, with all our heart, the Federal Treasurer considers the varied needs of cash users around the country and delivers on its promise.”

As part of the Treasury consultation, it was detailed:

- Consultation on the proposed mandate would occur in Q4 of 2024
- Proposed policy design for the mandate would be announced in Q1 of 2025
- Exposure draft legislation would be released Q3 of 2025
- Cash mandate legislation would be put to Parliament in Q4 of 2025
- The mandate would commence from 1 January 2026.

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violets are blue.
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KEEP CASH

National Seniors
AUSTRALIA

For more information about National Seniors Australia's Keep Cash campaign please visit [here](#)

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