

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

September, 2024

Meeting at 1.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at
Lockleys Baptist Church house, 244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale

Entrance & Parking - Drive through carport to rear of building

COMMITTEE

President	Brian Mibus (0417 887701)	Committee	Jeanette Molde
Vice-President ..	Trevor Molde (0417 838740)		Heather Dowling
Secretary	Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)		Jenny Mathews
Treasurer	Mavis Smith	Newsletter.....	Trish Mibus (0407 605091)
Activities Coordinator	Annie McCall		

2024 CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY	AFTERNOON TEA
All dates are Wednesdays		
September 25, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER –Artificial Intelligence – Trevor Molde	Mavis Smith
October 9, 10.30 am	OUTING & LUNCH – Airport – Vickers Vimy tour and lunch at café	
October 23, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER – Hearing Dogs - Jess	Dawn Thomas
November 13, 12 noon	LUNCH – Lockleys Hotel – Christmas lunch	
November 27, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER – Wetlands – David Jarman	Kathy Hancock
January 22, 2025, 5.30pm	Our first meeting for 2025 will be Dinner at the Alberton Hotel.	

Our August Guest Speaker

John Retire Active Radio Players

- The group started as drama group Arthur Players in 2000 with 1 act plays. They changed their name to ARPA Radio Players and 2 years ago became the Retire Active Radio Players.
- From 2025 they will be known as Adelaide Radio Players as Retire Active has disbanded due to low numbers. Adelaide Radio Players was been registered as an incorporated association to allow Retire Active Radio Players money and equipment to be handed over to them.
- They have a 1 hour presentation which brings people back to radio from the 40s and 50s.
- Each performance contains up to 12 sketches, which are mostly comedies because most older people relate to these.
- Their scripts are original, written mostly by members of the cast, sometimes about their own experiences.
- The group consists of 10 – 12 performers and 2 to operate the sound system.
- They are on the look out for people to join them, particularly men. No experience needed.
- The group meets at the Brooklyn Park Church of Christ. They are a friendly group and love being able to perform, particularly for seniors groups.
- **Their annual fundraiser for the Churches of Christ Care program will be held at Brooklyn Park Church of Christ on October 20 at 2 pm.**
- Workshops are held on Mondays from 10 am to 12.30 pm, covering subjects like script writing, vocal technique, sound, etc.
- The group has performed all over the state, but usually in the metropolitan area.
- Coast FM features the group once a month on a Friday morning.

September Outing – Bay Discovery Centre

On Wednesday, September 11, several of our members left our cars at the church house and caught the bus to Glenelg for the day.

Our first stop, naturally, was the coffee shop for fuel to get us through to lunchtime.

Our next stop was the Bay Discovery Centre, where we spent quite some time looking at the displays and reading about the first European settlers in South Australia and the indigenous people who inhabited the Holdfast Bay area. The staff in the Discovery Centre were very helpful, even suggesting where we might have an enjoyable lunch.

We finished our visit to Glenelg with a relaxing lunch at the Glenelg Surf Lifesaving Club before catching the bus back to collect our cars.



National Seniors Australia (NSA) News

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Aged Care reboot

While who pays what gets most of the media attention, there is much more to the new Aged Care Act as the draft bill is tabled in parliament.

The new Act's 574 pages respond directly to around 60 recommendations within the Aged Care Royal Commission final report (and that doesn't include the many subordinate legislation, standards, and rules that regulate the aged care sector).

So, what does it mean for you?

Headline protections

There are several headline protections for older Australians that have been agreed as part of the negotiations between Labor and the Coalition.

- Anyone already approved for a Home Care Package on the date of the announcement will be grandfathered on the existing funding rules and will continue with the existing contribution regime.
- No person under the new rules will pay more than a total of \$130,000 in co-contributions across the Support at Home and non-clinical care contributions in residential care under the revised lifetime contribution cap.
- The new Support at Home program will also have a defined list of services and capped budgets for certain items to reduce overcharging by providers.
- The family home will continue to be largely exempt from the aged care means test as per its current treatment.

Statement of rights

One of the biggest changes to the *Aged Care Act* is the inclusion of a Statement of Rights.

This includes a positive duty on providers to take all reasonable and proportionate steps to act in ways that are compatible with a person's rights as set out in the legislation.

These rights are not absolute. In practice, they can be balanced with other rights, the rights of others, and the need for compliance with other laws.

The rights will also not be enforceable by a court or tribunal. Ultimately, it will be up to the new Complaints Commissioner to assess whether these rights have been breached and what actions should be taken, if a conflict is not resolved and requires escalation.

Disappointingly, the draft Act continues to locate the Complaints Commissioner within the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

National Seniors argued in an earlier submission that the Complaints Commissioner should be located within a separate statutory body to give older people greater trust.

We still hope this will be changed before the Act is passed through parliament.

Aged care funding changes

The draft Act includes a new system, to change the way services are funded.

Both sides of politics ruled out an aged care levy to pay for increased demand for aged care services. Despite it being a key recommendation of the Royal Commission, both sides cited it as politically unpalatable. Instead, the government formed an Aged Care Taskforce to determine an alternative approach.

While no one wishes to pay more, it is clear that aged care is becoming an increasing cost to the Federal Budget. Funding reform was needed to improve the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of aged care services into the future.

The compromise that was delivered by the Taskforce and signed off by Labor and the Coalition is a funding model that guarantees full government funding for clinical care services (for example, nursing care) but increases consumer contributions for non-care services (for example, gardening and accommodation) in both the home and residential care settings. These non-care services are ones that most people pay themselves throughout their lives.

This change means government can deliver services to more people, reducing waiting times for home care and assuring financial sustainability for the providers delivering aged care services.

It will also mean that higher level home care packages offering up to \$78,000 of support in a year will be on offer helping older people to age at home.

Support at Home

One of the key parts of the new Act is the framework it provides for the new Support at Home program, which will amalgamate the various home care services available into a single streamlined program.

Older people have a strong preference to receive care at home, and this new system will provide greater access to home-based care by realigning government funding.

The new Support at Home program will have eight levels with services within each split into three categories:

- Clinical
- Independence
- Everyday living.

Clinical care services, like nursing care, will be **fully funded** by government regardless of a person's means.

Services that promote independence will be **fully funded by government for full pensioners** but attract a **co-contribution of between 5 and 50% for part-pensioners and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders (CSHC)**, presumably on a sliding scale relative to means, and a **co-contribution of 50% for self-funded retirees without a CSHC**.

Services related to **everyday living** (such as gardening) will attract a **17.5% co-contribution from pensioners**, a **co-contribution of between 17.5 and 80% for part pensioners and CSHC holders**, and a **co-contribution of 80% for self-funded retirees without a CSHC**.

While this will mean some people will be required to meet more of the costs of non-clinical care, people should be less likely to wait for a package, with government claiming this should reduce the wait time for home care services to less than three months under the new system.

Next steps

The reforms within the new *Aged Care Act* are critical to restoring faith in the aged care system. We believe many of the changes will improve access to services for people who need them.

However, there is a lot of detail and National Seniors will continue to examine the draft bill along with other seniors organisations. National Seniors will provide a submission to the Senate committee inquiry outlining any concerns.

Importantly, we will continue to demand appropriate transparency and accountability from providers as a precondition for greater consumer contributions to non-care supports.

Author – Dr Brendon Radford, Director of Policy and Research, National Seniors Australia

Webinar

[Support at Home program questions and answers session – Older people, families and carers.](#)

Registration required – Click on the link above to register

This targeted questions and answers session will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the Support at Home program and transition.

When: Thursday 26 September 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am AEST (10.30 am – 11.30 am SA time)

Presenters

- Nick Morgan, Assistant Secretary, Support at Home Reform Branch
- Lezah Rushton, Assistant Secretary, Assessment and Home Care Transition Branch.

About the webinar

This dedicated questions and answers session will provide an opportunity for you to ask relevant questions about the Support at Home program.