

THE 2018-19 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

MAY 11TH, 2018 | [ARTICLE](#)

This week came the release of the 2018-2019 budget, and with it a number of key factors for the Aged Care Industry on the changes that are coming. The budget for Aged Care contained a number of recommendations from the [Tune Review](#).

Here, we've broken down the different aspects of what the budget means for the Industry, what was welcomed, what key areas were not addressed and what the future holds.

Firstly, let's look at what areas the budget addressed in Aged Care, and some of the initiatives that have been introduced.



**2018 - 2019
BUDGET**

\$5 BILLION SPEND OVER 5 YEARS FOR AGED CARE & OLDER AUSTRALIANS

WHAT IS THE BUDGET PROVIDING FOR AGED CARE IN 2018-19?

-  Funding to support Aged Care in **rural, regional & remote** areas, and **remote Indigenous communities**
-  Establishment of **Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission** from 1st January 2019 and funding to protect older Australians from abuse
-  New high-level **Home Care packages** by 2021-2022
-  Improvement to the **My Aged Care** website and streamlining of **assessment processes**
-  Funding to **promote healthier ageing** including mental health support for Aged Care Residents

THE NUMBERS

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND

13,500

Additional Residential Aged Care places released in 2018-19*

775

Short-term restorative care places released in 2018-19

\$60M

Capital investment to support the releases

* The next allocation will be via Aged Care Approvals Round 2018-19

MENTAL HEALTH

\$82.5M

For mental health services in Residential Aged Care over 4 years from 2018-19

PALLIATIVE CARE

\$32.8M

To deliver palliative care (conditional on State's matching funding) over 4 years

RURAL, REGIONAL & REMOTE

\$40M

To improve access to services in rural, regional & remote areas over 4 years

HOME CARE PACKAGES

\$1.6B

Over 4 years to support 14,000 new high-level home care packages

TECHNOLOGY

\$5.3M

For the development of technological solutions for people living with dementia over 4 years

BETTER QUALITY CARE PROGRAM

\$50M

To assist Providers to transition to the new quality standards framework over 2 years

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLEXIBLE AGED CARE PROGRAM

\$105.7M

Over 4 years from 2018-19 to deliver additional residential Aged Care places & home care packages

1300 419 199
www.providerassist.com.au



The Government will also consolidate Residential and Home Care funding lines to allow flexibility going forward, starting from 1 July 2018.

While these initiatives have been viewed as much-needed therefore received well, there are some areas that have generated [great discussion about their absence from the budget](#):

- Despite the addition of 14,000 high level Home Care Packages over 4 years, this new allocation [does not meet the need for the 56,850](#) people currently on a waiting list for a high-level Home Care Package.
- The contentious issue of staffing and staffing ratios was not addressed in the budget. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, who are campaigning for staffing ratios to be implemented in Aged Care [voiced disappointment](#) that the budget had not addressed a need for 'safe staffing' in Aged Care facilities. The Government is currently undertaking a [workforce reform review in consultation with the industry](#).
- The sustainability and growing needs of the industry were not wholly addressed. LASA CEO Sean Rooney states "This Budget does not adequately address the growing complexity of residents' needs, changing consumer and community expectations, and rising operating costs, which are all placing increasing financial pressure on residential care providers and the overall aged care system." You can read further on LASA's response to the budget announcements [here](#).

An indication of reform of the Aged Care system is the \$300,000 budgeted for an 'impact analysis' to be conducted about creating a system where Aged Care places are allocated direct to consumers, rather than the Providers. A move away from the Aged Care Approvals Round was a recommendation from the [Tune Review](#) (page 8).

For a further look at the breakdown of the budget, you can view the Government's release on the Department of Health's page [here](#) and ACSA's breakdown of the budget [here](#).

See more at <https://providerassist.com.au/news-resources/>



LISSIE LYONS – CHAMPION OF PROJECTS & INNOVATION
Author