

# Minister confirms commitment to crucial aged care programme

FECCA today welcomed Federal Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Ken Wyatt's backing for the continuation of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme beyond 2020.

Minister Wyatt confirmed this morning at a meeting of the National Aged Care Alliance in Canberra that he is personally committed the Programme, which helps older people stay independent and in their homes and communities for longer.

At the meeting, Minister Wyatt reinforced the important role of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme in providing entry level services to frail older Australians, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Programme also provides the same entry level support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as older LGBTI Australians.

The Minister's commitment does not preclude the Federal Government from pursuing reforms of the sector which aim to simplify access to services and facilitate a more seamless transition for older Australians from the Commonwealth Home Support Programme to the Home Care Packages Program.

FECCA Chairperson Ms Mary Patetsos, who was present at the meeting, applauded Minister Wyatt for his recognition of the importance of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

"Culturally and linguistically diverse communities and specialist home support providers will be delighted with this news," Ms Patetsos said.

"Essential cultural competencies are embedded in the aged care sector through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, and service delivery to older Australians would be negatively impacted without it.

"The loss of trusted specialist services would also compound the lack of access to services and the disadvantage experienced by culturally and linguistically diverse older Australians."

"FECCA will continue to work closely with the Minister and the Department to ensure high quality and inclusive aged care services for older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their carers."

FECCA is the peak, national body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. FECCA's role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community.

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