

## NESST Newsflash

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the NESST Newsflash. If you wish to unsubscribe to this Newsletter, please reply to this email and NESST will remove you from our mailing list. ☺

### Contents

NESST Newsflash.....	1
NESST Regional Zoom .....	2
NESST Free On-line Training Portal.....	2
COVID-19 vaccine for in-home and community aged care workers and volunteers.....	2
New Aged Care Act .....	3
Increase in the minimum meal unit price.....	3
Aged Care Provider research project.....	4
National Palliative Care Week 2021.....	4
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2021: 27 MAY TO 3 JUNE .....	5
KeepAble .....	5
SBS COVID-19 Vaccine Information Video in Over 60 Languages.....	5
Information for CHSP service providers: transition to payment in arrears .....	6
Building Powerful Proposals - 31 May 2021, Online.....	6
Financial Reporting for Charities - 16 Jun 2021, Online.....	7
Employee engagement and continuous performance management.....	7
Supporting older Australians to maintain positive mental health.....	7
Palliative Care Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people .....	8
New palliative care resources to support aged care .....	8
Cultural diversity webinars .....	8
CRANA - Bush Support .....	8
CHSP Ad-Hoc Emergency COVID-19 Funding – GO3877 – closes 30 June 2021.....	9
CHSP Ad Hoc Funding - GO4265 - closes 30 June 2022 .....	9
Department of Health Updates .....	9

## NESST Regional Zoom

Our regular Regional CHSP Zooms will be held on **1 June 2021** at **2 pm**.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-uprjgvE9VLIK6MgPsmPrL\\_HTHKTxTw](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-uprjgvE9VLIK6MgPsmPrL_HTHKTxTw)

If anyone has agenda items for upcoming forums or would like us to find information/speakers on specific issues please let us know asap.

## NESST Free On-line Training Portal

A certificate is emailed on completion. The portal is now available to all New England Aged Care providers and all community transport projects in NSW. Please share with your staff and volunteers:

<https://nesstbasictraining.thinkific.com/>

On this site you will find:

**An introduction to the Commonwealth Home Support Programme**

**Food Safety for Seniors**

**Dementia Basics**

**Duty of Care**

**Professional Boundaries**

**Confidentiality**

**An Introduction to Community Transport - new**

If you would prefer to host a paper-based group session we are happy to help. We can provide resources and send out certificates after completion.

## COVID-19 vaccine for in-home and community aged care workers and volunteers

The Department of Health has advised that all workers (including unpaid volunteers) in in-home and community aged care are included in phase 1b and are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine now. This includes those delivering care directly to an individual as well as those in administrative roles.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

## **New Aged Care Act**

The new Act is intended to commence from 1 July 2023, subject to parliamentary processes. Drafting of the Act has already commenced with the establishment of a taskforce and will be informed by consultation with senior Australians and other stakeholders, including members of the new Council of Elders and National Aged Care Advisory Council.

The new Act will establish provisions for eligibility for care, funding arrangements and regulatory powers and will support greater choice and control for senior Australians over the care and services that they receive. The new Act is also said to include grant programs that can be tailored to address identified needs in the sector, including research to drive innovation, and programs to address areas with limited services or low client numbers once the Act is developed.

The budget for development of the new Act is \$26.7 million. Refer to the Fact Sheet:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/governance-pillar-5-of-the-royal-commission-response-a-new-aged-care-act>

## **Increase in the minimum meal unit price**

The Morrison Government will increase the minimum meals unit price to \$7.50 to help aged care providers deliver meals to older Australians receiving aged care at home.

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services Richard Colbeck said it was a significant step forward to reinforce the tremendous efforts of food providers which help meet the nutritional needs of an increasing number of older Australians.

“This vital measure puts the health and wellbeing of older Australians first, while strengthening the viability of meal providers across the country,” Minister Colbeck said.

The mechanism will see the minimum unit price of \$4.90 paid to providers lifted by \$2.60.

The changes are expected to be implemented over the course of 2021-22.

It amounts to a \$7 million funding injection under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/nod-to-volunteers-as-meal-providers-receive-a-funding-boost>

Provider reaction has been not so positive – describing the increase as “a paltry sum”

## Aged Care Provider research project

The Australian Government's response to the Aged Care Royal Commission will mean change for providers. The new support at home program aims to provide a seamless system of in-home aged care, to better support and match timely services to the needs of older Australians living at home and in the community, and their informal carers.

The Department of Health wants to understand providers' readiness to adapt to sector reforms and how to best support the transition to the new program. The department has launched a research project to understand the range of provider experiences and views.

The department has engaged Boston Consulting Group to undertake an analysis of all aged care providers Australia-wide to:

- understand your readiness for change
- understand the areas where you will need support to manage a transition to the new system
- hear concerns you may have about the impact of the incoming reforms on your business

The survey will be available in June.

Your response to the survey is critical in shaping the new program and the support the department can provide to you over the coming months and years in transition to the new system. The results will inform the strategy for change management and sector support.

### Further involvement and information

If you would like to express interest in taking part in an interview or panel discussions to contribute to the survey, email [provider.research@bcg.com](mailto:provider.research@bcg.com). All data collected will only be used for this project.

More information about the aged care reforms is available on the [department's website](#).

## National Palliative Care Week 2021

National Palliative Care Week 2021 will be held from **Sunday 23 May – Saturday 29 May**, with the theme "**Palliative Care *It's more than you think.***", which seeks to raise awareness about the many benefits of quality palliative care. One of the great myths about palliative care is that it is only a synonym for end-of-life care. It is so much more than that.

National Palliative Care Week (NPCW) provides an opportunity to discuss the benefits of palliative care and celebrate the amazing dedication of all those working and volunteering in palliative care across Australia. <https://palliativecare.org.au/national-palliative-care-week-2021-campaign-resources/>

## **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2021: 27 MAY TO 3 JUNE**

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2021, *More than a word. Reconciliation takes action*, urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To our new supporters, please remember the importance of privileging and amplifying First Nations' voices as you add your voice to calls for reconciliation and justice.

We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and almost three decades of Australia's formal reconciliation process.

<https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/>

## **KeepAble**

A new online collaborative Wellness and Reablement knowledge hub for home care providers, people working in the aged care sector, clients, and communities across Australia. As an essential part of the launch, we hope you might consider publishing the attached media release that has been approved for immediate release by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) through Indigo Australasia Incorporated, ILA developed KeepAble as a sector support and development initiative.

<https://keepable.com.au/>

## **SBS COVID-19 Vaccine Information Video in Over 60 Languages**

SBS has released a video in more than 60 languages, including AUSLAN, informing communities about Australia's COVID-19 vaccination roll-out plan, how vaccines work, and how they are approved in Australia. The video explains the different phases of the Australian Government's COVID-19 Vaccine National Rollout Plan, specifically in what order different workers and age groups will receive the vaccine. It also highlights where it will be available, who will receive it free of charge, and points to additional resources for further information.

[View videos.](#)

## **Information for CHSP service providers: transition to payment in arrears**

On 11 May 2021, the Australian Government announced changes to the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) to help position the aged care sector as it moves towards a new support at home program commencing in July 2023. The new program will replace the CHSP, Home Care Packages, Short-Term Restorative Care, and residential respite programs.

To prepare for these future reforms, CHSP grant agreements will be extended for one year from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, with most CHSP providers transitioning to payment in arrears.

As this will be a significant change for many CHSP service providers, the department will consult with providers on the implementation of this measure over the next three months through the establishment of a representative working group. This group will consider:

- simple reporting requirements that are not onerous for providers
- a review of unit prices to support viable and sustainable service delivery models – a consultancy is currently being established to conduct this review
- redesign of grant agreements and activity work plans
- the appropriate start date for moving to payment in arrears within the 2022-23 financial year
- the identification of a small number of services that may have special circumstances requiring an exemption from moving to full payment in arrears
- the development of guidance for providers on moving to payment in arrears, including the role of Sector Support and Development providers in helping to prepare for this change.

The working group will include representatives from each CHSP service type. A request for members will be made via peak bodies over the next week.

Further details about these changes will be made available to service providers through the normal channels as they are finalised, with detailed advice to be finalised by September 2021.

Payment in arrears will come into effect within the 2022-23 financial year, with the start-date to be determined by September 2021, following the above consultation process.

## **Building Powerful Proposals - 31 May 2021, Online**

Presenting your proposal to a waiting audience is one of the most nerve-wracking experiences for many people.

There is nothing worse than getting to the end of your presentation only to be met with awkward silence or stilted applause. Often we only get one chance to make a big impression so we need to make sure we deliver. In this session, we will look at the critical steps to building your presentation.

Through crafting your audience experience, structuring your content and creating powerful presentation materials, this webinar will help you to make your next pitch or proposal a standing ovation.

[More information and registration.](#)

## **Financial Reporting for Charities - 16 Jun 2021, Online**

Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

Financial Reporting for Charities

16 June 2021, 12.00pm-1.00pm

Online

Free.

This webinar will focus on the financial reporting requirements of Australia's charities. It will provide an overview of financial reporting requirements, as well as ACNC resources to help charities, information on common errors the ACNC sees and new accounting standards charities need to be aware of.

[Register.](#)

## **Employee engagement and continuous performance management**

### **Connecting Up**

**3 June, 2021 11:00am - 12:00pm AEST**

**FREE**

Did you know that an average 30-person company that has a highly engaged workforce sees a business value of over 1 Million dollars thanks to this high engagement level?

In this webinar we'll discuss the latest strategies and tools to help you connect, communicate and keep your workforce engaged, even when they may be spread out in different offices or working from home!

Please [login](#) or [create an account](#) to be able to access this product and proceed with your order.

## **Supporting older Australians to maintain positive mental health**

ACSA in partnership with Mental Health & Well-Being Training Solutions has developed a series of non-clinical webinars, focused on raising awareness and providing education and training to increase understanding of the variety of mental health conditions experienced by older people, and the impact these conditions may have on care and service delivery in the older person's home.

<https://acsa.asn.au/News/Supporting-older-Australians-mental-health>

## **Palliative Care Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**

Palliative Care Australia has launched '[Discussing Choices - Indigenous Advance Care Plans - A Learning Resource](#)', a new video for health professionals.

The video illustrates culturally safe advance care planning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## **New palliative care resources to support aged care**

ELDAC is developing [a suite of new resources](#) spanning five key areas that are integral to the provision of quality palliative care across the aged care sector.

These new resources will be released from early 2021 to mid-2023 and are designed to improve capacity at the individual, service and system levels. A [printable factsheet](#) has also been developed for download.

## **Cultural diversity webinars**

The [Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing](#) has launched new free webinars covering a range of topics of interest to staff and leaders in aged care services, including:

Accessing culturally appropriate resources for your consumers

Applying a diversity lens to dementia care

Cross-cultural communication.

These free webinars will be facilitated by diversity experts from across Australia.

## **CRANA - Bush Support**

Toll-free 24hr Telephone Counselling every day of the year - call 1800 805 391 - for ALL remote health workers/service providers and their families <https://crana.org.au/support>

Bush Support provide a range of programs and resources to assist remote workers and their families in managing the stress of living and working in a remote location. The program includes an anonymous, nationwide 24-hour telephone debriefing and support service staffed by psychologists with remote experience.



### **CHSP Ad-Hoc Emergency COVID-19 Funding – GO3877 – closes 30 June 2021**

The objective of this grant is to provide assistance through limited financial support to existing CHSP service providers to enable them to respond to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances that directly impact existing service delivery arrangements that are beyond the control of the grant recipient.

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=6c903322-0521-8405-245c-dd56c93b7960>

### **CHSP Ad Hoc Funding - GO4265 - closes 30 June 2022**

This is to enable services to respond to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, address gaps in service delivery and trial and implement new and innovative service delivery models. You have until **30th June 2022 @ 2 pm** to apply for one-off and/or recurrent funding.

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=64c68525-fdd8-bbb7-1826-7ff80a0f88ca>

### **Department of Health Updates**

Keep up to date – find all the updates here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/newsletters>