



Sustaining a Care and Support Workforce for the Veterans' Community: A Viability Supplement

The Veterans' Home Care program delivers services to support veterans and families to remain living in their own homes. The Australian Government will increase fees for the Veterans' Home Care program for specific services delivered through the program. This measure addresses financial sustainability issues facing Veterans' Home Care service providers.

This initiative provides \$70.6 million over four years to fund an increase to fees for domestic assistance and personal care services under the Veterans' Home Care program. The base hourly rate for domestic assistance and personal care under the Veterans' Home Care program will be increased as follows:

- domestic assistance by 25.38%,
- personal care (standard) by 20.53%, and
- personal care (exceptional) by 16.70%

This measure is part of the broader Care Workforce package led by the Department of Employment, Workforce, Skills and Small and Family Business.

Why is this important?

The Veterans' Home Care program provides veterans and their families assistance at home, to help them stay safe and independent in their homes for longer. The fee increase will ensure veterans continue to receive quality domestic assistance and personal care support through the Veterans' Home Care program. The measure takes a simplified approach to allow for a commencement date of 1 July 2022. The measure terminates on 30 June 2026, noting the Review of Veterans' Care and Support Programs is currently underway and will consider options for future reform.

Who will benefit?

This measure will benefit providers of Veterans' Home Care Services and the 37,000 veterans and war widow/ers participating in the VHC program.

The increase will provide more sustainable access to Veterans' Home Care services, especially for veterans in rural and regional areas.

Date of effect?

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026.

How much will this cost?

\$70.6 million over four years.

