



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

# COMMUNITY NURSING NEWSLETTER No. 45

## March 2024



The *Community Nursing Newsletter* is issued to provide updates to Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Community Nursing (CN) providers about DVA's CN Program.

## AGED CARE WAGES – HISTORICAL LEAVE LIABILITY FUNDING

On 4 May 2023, the Australian Government announced a commitment of \$11.3 billion in 2023-24 to support increased wages for aged care workers of 15 percent following the Fair Work Commission's (FWC) decision in the [Work value case - Aged care industry](#). This included \$0.6 million funding to cover historical leave liability payments for providers of Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Community Nursing (CN) and Veterans' Home Care (VHC) services.

### **About the funding**

If you are a **DVA-only** provider of CN and/or VHC services, **are not** an Aged care provider (i.e. you are not registered to provide aged care programs including Residential Aged Care, Home Care Packages Program, Commonwealth Home Support Programme) **and** you have an employee/s impacted by the Fair Work Commission (FWC) Aged Care Work value case decision, you can apply for historical leave liability funding from DVA.

This funding opportunity is for the 2023-24 period to fund providers for 50 percent of the cost associated with paying higher leave entitlements for aged care workers that have had their wages increased as a result of the FWC decision. Funding can only be claimed to 'top up' relevant leave entitlements that are directly attributable to the FWC decision of a 15 percent wage increase. The objective of the funding is to enable eligible DVA providers to pay eligible aged care workers their leave entitlements at the higher rate in the 2023-24 financial year, by providing funding of 50 percent of the associated cost.

DVA will pay 50 percent of a provider's leave liability as at 30 June 2023 up to a maximum of 15 percent above the award.

Further information on the aged care wage increase can be found at the [Department of Health and Aged Care's website](#).

### **How to apply**

To apply for funding from DVA you will need to complete the **Provider Application Form** and submit this along with supporting documentation to [leaveliabilities@dva.gov.au](mailto:leaveliabilities@dva.gov.au).

**Applications close on 30 April 2024.**

Please refer to the attached Aged Care Wages – Historical Leave Liability Funding documents:

- Provider Application Process and Guidelines
- Provider FAQs
- Provider Application Form
- If you have any questions regarding this funding process, please email [leaveliabilities@dva.gov.au](mailto:leaveliabilities@dva.gov.au)

## CLAIMING



The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has updated information about claiming for the Community Nursing Program, on the DVA website. Community Nursing providers are encouraged to review the updated information by visiting:

[Claiming for community nursing services | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](https://dva.gov.au)

## NEW AGED CARE ACT – CONSULTATION EXTENDED

The Department of Health and Aged Care (DOHAC) invites anyone interested in aged care – including aged care providers and workers, older people, their families and carers, researchers and experts – to have their say.

The consultation opened on Thursday 14 December and has been extended to **Friday 8 March 2024**.

You can get involved through the online survey, phone line, email or letter submission, or a workshop.



Read more about the [new Aged Care Act consultation](#).

You can download the New Aged Care Act Exposure Draft - Consultation Paper and the plain English summary, and access the survey at: [www.health.gov.au/aged-care-act-consultation](http://www.health.gov.au/aged-care-act-consultation).

There are several ways to get involved and contribute to this consultation including:

- attend a workshop and talk to the department directly
- complete the survey online or by calling 1800 318 209
- email [AgedCareLegislativeReform@health.gov.au](mailto:AgedCareLegislativeReform@health.gov.au).

If you have any questions on the consultation or these products, please email DOHAC at: [AgedCareLegislativeReform@health.gov.au](mailto:AgedCareLegislativeReform@health.gov.au).

## INVESTIGATING PROTECTIVE FACTORS OF THE DVA COMMUNITY NURSING PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans' Affairs commissioned the University of Sydney to identify the client and service factors associated with the Community Nursing (CN) Program achieving its primary aim of enabling veterans to stay at home as long as possible, avoiding early admission to hospital or residential care. The research purpose was to use the findings to strengthen the program by informing potential program improvements.

Multiple and possibly intersecting personal and service delivery factors were found to be associated with delayed residential aged care admission for CN clients. DVA CN clients remain at home considerably longer than the comparison group.

You can read a summary of the research and the final report on the DVA website:

[Findings of the Community Nursing Protective Factors Research](#)