

Supplementary analysis on the 2024-25 Federal Budget

This supplementary analysis provides an overview of the aged care measures included in the 2024-25 Federal Budget which ACCPA has received additional information about since the Budget was announced on 14 May 2024. It also includes information about measures for other portfolio areas which may be of interest to and/or have implications for aged care providers. This information has also been updated in the ACCPA Budget analysis, found [here](#).

Greater recognition of Enrolled Nurses in nurse minutes

Overall

From 1 October 2024, residential aged care providers will have greater flexibility in how they meet the care minutes requirements. Providers will have the option of meeting up to 10% of their Registered Nurse (RN) care minutes target with care time provided by Enrolled Nurses (ENs).¹

Our comments

ACCPA has been active in engaging the government on the need for greater recognition of ENs in the calculation of nurse minutes and therefore welcomes this measure. This policy shift will enable more residential aged care providers to comply with the care minutes requirements. It is likely to particularly benefit providers in rural, regional and remote areas, as well as others impacted by RN shortages. Enabling ENs to meet up to 10% of nurse minutes also provides greater recognition of the expertise of ENs and the important role they play in delivering care.

Permanent migration program

Overall

The Government will set the 2024–25 Permanent Migration Program planning level at 185,000 places and allocate 132,200 places (approximately 70%) to the Skill stream. From 2025–26, the Government will extend the planning horizon for the permanent Migration Program from one year to four years.

There is also provision for streamlined processing for skilled workers, such as in healthcare professions.

Our comments

ACCPA welcomes the longer term planning horizon for the Permanent Migration Program and has been actively [engaging](#) with the Department of Home Affairs on the need for more effective and efficient access to a skilled workforce in aged care.

We will seek further information on how the measures might be implemented to better support our member access skilled migrants in aged care.

¹ ACCPA confirmed this in a meeting with the office of Minister Wells on 15 May 2024.

NDIS reforms

Below are examples of NDIS-related measures of particular interest to the aged care sector.

Pricing reform

Overall

The Federal Budget includes \$5.3 million in 2024–25 for the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority to work with the Department of Social Services and the National Disability Insurance Agency to undertake initial work to reform NDIS pricing arrangements, including reviewing existing pricing approaches and developing a pricing data strategy.

Our comments

ACCPA notes recommendation 11 of the NDIS Review Final Report (“Reform pricing and payments frameworks to improve incentives for providers to deliver quality supports to participants”), which includes Action 11.3: “The Australian Government should transition responsibility for advising on NDIS pricing to the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority to strengthen transparency, predictability and alignment.”

ACCPA will monitor the progress and outcomes of this work and has been proactive in sharing our experience of independent pricing in aged care with our counterparts in the disability sector.

NDIS Review consultation and implementation

Overall

The Federal Budget includes \$129.8 million over two years from 2023–24 for design and consultation work to respond to the findings of the Independent NDIS Review, announced on 30 January 2024.

The Government will also establish a NDIS Implementation Advisory Committee and a NDIS Implementation Working Group, to oversee implementation of reforms recommended by the Independent NDIS Review and agreed by Government.

Our comments

ACCPA will continue to monitor progress made by the Government in relation to the NDIS Review.

Of particular interest is Action 2.11: “The Australian Government should implement legislative change to allow participants once they turn 65 to receive supports in both the NDIS and the aged care system concurrently and clarify when aged care supports are reasonable and necessary”.

ACCPA would like to see the Government consult with the aged care sector on this action (in particular), and will engage the Government on this issue.