



Minister for Health and Ageing
Minister for Disability and the National
Disability Insurance Scheme
The Hon Mark Butler MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Minister for Aged Care and Seniors
The Hon Sam Rae MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

10 June 2025

Dear Minister Butler and Minister Rae,

In the last term of parliament, the Albanese Government, with bipartisan support, was able to achieve important progress in aged care reform and we applaud you for that progress. We are writing, however, to express our deep concern with the announcement of delays to the implementation of reforms. While delayed implementation may be unavoidable, we argue that there are no material obstacles to proceeding with delivery of some additional Home Care packages under the existing scheme.

As you know, 83,000 new Home Care packages were due to be rolled out from 1 July 2025, which has now been postponed until November. There are currently some 80,000 Australians on the waitlist for a Home Care package. It takes 12 to 15 months for someone to get a level 4 package. In that context a six-month delay is consequential. Research shows that the longer people go without appropriate Home Care supports, the higher their risk of injury or hospitalisation. This delay will also imperil your Government's commitment that by 2027 no one will wait more than 90 days for a package.

On behalf of people in our communities, we are calling on the Albanese Government to, at a minimum, fund 20,000 new packages to commence on 1 July 2025 under the current Home Care Packages scheme, which can then be rolled over onto the new Support at Home program when it eventually commences.

Bringing forward at least some new packages would provide some much needed relief to older Australians and their families, noting that funding has already been allocated in the federal budget.

Thank you for your time in considering this request.

Kind regards,



Senator David Pocock
Independent ACT Senator

Allegra Spender MP
Member for Wentworth

Dr Monique Ryan MP
Member for Kooyong

Dr Sophie Scamps MP
Member for Mackellar

Dr Helen Haines MP
Member for Indi

Andrew Wilkie MP
Member for Clark

Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin

Andrew Gee MP
Member for Calare

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania

Zali Steggall MP
Member for Warringah