



KNOWING GOD AS

EL SHADDAI

God Almighty

CHRISTIAN HOME CARE
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

WHO TO CALL FOR SUPPORT

ANCA STAMATESCU



Anca oversees the Care Coordination Team. She is the main point of contact for new enquiries as well as feedback and suggestions.

Phone: (03) 9069 6202

NEIL MULLUCKS



Neil is part of our Care Coordination Team. He will be in touch with you for assessments, care plans and service reviews.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 2

STIFFANY TOUSSAINT



Call Stiffany for scheduling new services with a caregiver, changing or cancelling scheduled services, and general admin matters.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 1

REBECCA BROSAN



Rebecca is supporting our Rostering team with scheduling new services, changing or cancelling scheduled services, and general admin matters.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 1

JESSICA MAGNO



Jessica is also assisting with Care Coordination: service referrals, purchases, booking events and general admin matters.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 2

DINU STAMATESCU



Call Dinu for any Accounting and Compliance matters that could not be resolved with other members of the team.

Phone: (03) 9069 6201

NISHANTHI DHARMAKEERTHI



Nishanthi is our Accountant Assistant. Call Nishanthi for any queries regarding invoices and statements.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 3

WHAT ELDERS SAY ABOUT US:

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We would love to highlight the testimonies, stories, special anniversaries or events of the Elders in our community.

If you have anything to share, please email us at anca@christianhomecare.com.au and we would love to feature you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Elders:

Angela A. Robyn B. Elisabetha B. Suzanne D.
Val G. Maria J. Joy J. Rosemary M. Carol M.
Pauline O. Joan P. Elaine S. Saku S.
Jack T. Shantini T. Coral W. Sau W. Catherine Y.

Staff and Volunteers:

Dinu S. Risma R. Evi I. Amy K.

I do so appreciate the very special Wednesday church service and the great messages and delicious afternoon tea.

Thank you for the special Motai Day afternoon tea.

The message this morning about all the motai in the Bible was awesome. Thank you.

The Ministers who give sermons on the Wednesday have been so special.

Thank you again and God bless you, Irene

Love,

CHRISTIAN HOME CARE NEWS

Monthly Newsletter

WORD OF THE MONTH:

EL SHADDAI

Word of the month: El Shaddai

(God Almighty)

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When you pray to the Lord, do you ever refer to Him as El Shaddai?

Most of us are used to refer to God as the Father (Abba, Father comes to my mind first). But the Lord is infinite in His manifestations: as we find flowers in millions of species and varieties, created by God in His infinite mercy and care for us, so we should appreciate God in all the facets that make His unbelievable splendor!

We encounter El Shaddai in Genesis 17:1:

"1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, 'I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life.'" (NLT)

The name El Shaddai is found repeatedly in the book of Job, and that is no surprise. Though Job initially contended with the Almighty, God's display of power and wisdom caused the Patriarch to become quiet before the Lord's sovereignty and authority.

In Psalm 91: 1 we find God - El Shaddai as our protector:

"1 When you abide under the shadow of Shaddai, you are hidden in the strength of God Most High."

I feel so reassured under the power of El Shaddai, our God Almighty:

"3 He will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and he will protect you from false accusation and any deadly curse." Psalm 91:3

May to Lord Almighty, El Shaddai, protect you and your loved ones today and every day, and guide you to life eternal!

by Dinu Stamatescu

SUPPORT AT HOME ANNOUNCED



KEY POINTS

- The government has announced major reforms to aged care after reaching a deal with the Coalition.
- Australians who choose to age at home will have access to greater support through a new system, Support at Home.
- Under the reforms, new entrants to residential care would be required to make larger means-tested contributions.

The federal government has announced a suite of aged care reforms, including more support for up to 1.4 million older Australians who choose to stay in their own homes.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the \$5.6 billion package on Thursday after reaching a deal with the Coalition.

"This is about caring for the generation that cared for us," Albanese told reporters in Canberra on Thursday.

"We will deliver historic aged care reforms to ensure the viability and quality of our aged care system and support the growing number of older Australians choosing to retain their independence and remain in their homes as they age."

The government introduced the bill for a new Aged Care Act — the main law that sets out how the aged care system operates — to Parliament on Thursday, 12 September 2024.

Investing another \$3.8 billion in quality aged care

The Australian Government is investing \$3.8 billion over four years to support the aged care sector to deliver a higher standard of care for older Australians, by funding pay rises for workers from 1 January 2025.



The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Sport

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Media type: Media release; Audience: General public

The Albanese Government is investing \$3.8 billion over four years to support the aged care sector to deliver a higher standard of care for older Australians, by funding pay rises for workers from 1 January 2025.

This \$3.8 billion investment will fund the Fair Work Commission Aged Care Work Value Case Stage 3 decision, which is anticipated to benefit 340,000 aged care workers in residential and home care. This funding builds on our \$11.3 billion commitment in 2023, to fund the previous 15% award wage increase determined by the FWC and is on top of the \$5.6 billion announced by the Prime Minister last week.

Aged care workers will see these increases from 1 January 2025, with many workers receiving further increases from 1 October 2025.

Historic aged care reforms announced last week, in response to the final report of the Aged Care Taskforce, outlined a number of essential changes to improve the funding, viability, and quality of residential care.

Ahead of those changes commencing on 1 July 2025, the Government is supporting residential aged care providers to meet the increasing costs of delivering care and hotelling services to older people in residential care settings.

[...]

For the Home Care Packages (HCP) Program, the Government has earmarked \$0.4 billion over 4 years to increase the Commonwealth portion of the home care subsidy. The subsidy increase will enable providers to pass on this historic wage increase to staff and ensure that care recipients will see no change in their services or hours of care.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) providers will be able to apply for a Grant Opportunity for additional funds. This will ensure that CHSP providers are supported in providing the wage increases to eligible staff.

PASTORAL MESSAGE: EL SHADDAI

One of my favourite Christian songs is 'El Shaddai' written by Michael Card and John Thompson, sung by Amy Grant in 1982. As she sang, "Age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name," she magnified God Almighty—the wonderful "El Shaddai."

You can listen to the song with lyrics at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuxB1a3NBCw)

[v=DuxB1a3NBCw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuxB1a3NBCw)

El eloyon means "God most high"; ek karna Adonai means "I love You, Lord".

El Sahaddai is one of the names of God used by the Hebrew people. Sometimes translated as 'God Almighty' the first bible reference to El Shaddai occurs in Genesis 17:1, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am El Shaddai; walk before me, and be blameless'.

In Exodus 6:2–3 Shaddai was the name by which God was known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Among Christians, the most common interpretation of shaddai today is "mighty," or "The Overpowerer," meaning God will overpower all opposition. Some interpret shaddai as "sufficient," God is the "All-sufficient One." He is indeed more than sufficient to meet any need.

Generally we think of the people of God calling out 'El Shaddai - Oh God Almighty' as a reference to God's strength and mighty power to overcome enemies – to break down barriers and to defend us from all evil but Shaddai also contains the word Shad which in Hebrew means breast...."

God, who is our source of life, continues to sustain us like a mother breastfeeding her child.

Security and strength from a mother for a child that cannot defend or scavenge to feed itself.

Breastfeeding takes strength on the part of the mother but it also develops a bond of trust and intimacy with the child like no other. The faithfulness and love of a breastfeeding mother who feeds her child, provides warmth and shelter with her own body that's the picture of true strength.

Strength not of the warrior soldier who can rip the enemy to shreds, but of a breastfeeding mother. A mother who gives of herself day after day, night after night and is never far from her child. Her heart and her ears ever tuned to the needs and the cry of her child.

That's true strength, enduring strength sourced in love, strength that refuses to give up, strength that provides and nourishes and does not destroy. Strength that protects, that lasts, strength that is faithful. That's the picture of God Almighty. That's his might, a might that does not give up no matter how much we may complain or grumble. That is 'El Shaddai', God Almighty, enduring strength, and that is the strength that we are called to show too.

In this image of the breastfeeding mother is a great paradox. The ultimate expression of might and power is one of being servant like and self giving.

The wonder of all wonders is that God, almighty and above all things, humbled Himself to bring us salvation in His Son. Thank and praise him for the wonder of his emptying himself, for his perfect love and obedience in going to the cross to suffer and die for us, our meek and mighty Saviour. Amen!

Pastor Phil Haar



Christian Home Church

Our Christian Home Church gatherings are welcoming you all with love!

You may be our Elder, our Elders' children, grandchildren, neighbours, friends, our staff, volunteers or subcontractors with their children or parents or friends, or you can simply be a friend of CHC.

If you have never joined us and you would like to come and have a peek, just come and see, you will be the guest of honour!

Our next Christian Home Church services and afternoon tea meetings are planned for 2pm on Wednesday 09/10, 23/10 and 20/11.

There will be no CHC church service on Wed. 06/11 as this is replaced by the Salvation Army Concert on Fri 08/11 at 1.30pm.

For our usual church services we meet on the premises of : St Paul's Anglican Church (also called Mullum Mullum Anglican Church)

40 Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood

We highly recommend that you keep social distancing and wear a mask if concerned about COVID. You also need to self-screen for COVID or other infectious diseases before attending the services according to CHC procedures already notified to you. **Please RSVP to**

coordination@christianhomecare.com.au or (03) 9069 6200 and select option 4.

Please note that we cannot take responsibility for your COVID safety when attending; if you deem attendance as an unacceptable risk to your health, we understand!

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR CHRISTIAN HOME CHURCH WEBSITE AT

[HTTPS://CHRISTIANHOME.CHURCH](https://christianhome.church) ?

PLEASE DO SO FOR UPCOMING SERVICE DATES, SERVICES RECORDINGS, PRAYER REQUESTS, ETC.

Christian Home Church is an ecumenical non-denominational church where we welcome people from any background and hope that irrespective of having been brought up as Catholics or Baptists or Pentecostal, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians and so on, or maybe having no prior connection with church, we will all meet up in unity to bring glory to our God, praise our Saviour and thank our Holy Spirit.

NAMES OF GOD

Our Newsletters this year focus each month on one of the names of our God.

So far we had: March: **Abba Father**; April: **Jesus**; May: **Holy Spirit**; June: **Yahweh (I Am)**; July: **Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Who Provides)**; August: **Adonai (Lord, Master)**; September: **Elohim (God)**; October: **El Shaddai (God Almighty)**. Stay tuned for more names of the Lord!

PSALM OF THE MONTH

Psalms 91, 1-3, 5 (The Passion Translation)

1 When you abide under the shadow of Shaddai, you are hidden in the strength of God Most High.

2 He's the hope that holds me and the stronghold to shelter me, the only God for me, and my great confidence.

3 He will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and he will protect you from false accusation and any deadly curse.

[...]

5 You will never worry about an attack of demonic forces at night nor have to fear a spirit of darkness coming against you.



Support at Home

This fact sheet provides a summary of the Support at Home program that will commence 1 July 2025 and the contributions participants in the program will pay.

Access: Participants will have quicker access to services. Additional funding over the first two years of the new Support at Home program will shorten average wait times for services to a target of 3 months from 1 July 2027.

A new classification system: Participants will be assessed into one of 10 new funding classifications. The new classifications improve on the current 4 packages available through the Home Care Packages (HCP) program by better aligning funding to need. This includes 8 ongoing classifications, and 2 short term classifications – the restorative care pathway and end-of-life care pathway.

Under Support at Home, the highest ongoing classification exceeds the current Level 4 HCP, with a budget of almost \$78,000 per year.

A defined service list: The program will have a service list which specifies the services available under Support at Home. This will provide clarity for older people and service providers about what can be accessed. The service list includes clinical care (such as nursing and physiotherapy), support for independence (such as personal care, respite, transport and social support), and help with everyday living (such as cleaning, meals delivery and gardening).

Quarterly budgets: Participants will receive a quarterly budget that aligns to their funding classification. Participants will work with their provider to choose how to spend their budget across some or all of the services they have been approved to receive.

Participants will be able to save up to \$1,000 or 10% (whichever is higher) of the value of their quarterly budget across quarters, if available.

Capped prices: Service providers will draw down on participants' budgets after services have been delivered. Prices for each service must not exceed price caps set by the government based on the advice of the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority.

A focus on independence at home

Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Scheme: Participants will have upfront access to assistive technology and home modifications through a separately funded scheme. This means people will no longer have to save their package funds for these supports.

The scheme will have a defined list of the assistive technology and home modifications that can be funded.

Restorative care pathway: The new restorative care pathway will improve on the Short-Term Restorative Care Programme by more than doubling the number of places, increasing the maximum duration of support, and opening access to less complex clients to prevent falls and other injuries before they occur. Participants assessed as likely to benefit can receive up to 12 weeks of intensive allied health focused support to help restore or maintain function, up from 8 weeks currently.

The pathway will commence with 5,000 places, supporting up to 20,000 people a year.

End of life care: Older people with less than 3 months to live and who wish to stay at home, will be given priority access to the program's dedicated highest funding classification for additional home care services (\$25,000 for 12 weeks).

The pathway will work in conjunction with, not replace, specialised palliative care services such as symptom management and advanced care planning.

Support for thin markets: Grant funding will be available to help service providers in thin markets such as rural and remote locations or providers focused on supporting diverse groups.

Flexible care management: Service providers will draw down 10% of participants' budgets for care management, to be delivered by care partners. Care partners will ensure services meet participants' needs and support their wellbeing. Care management support may increase or decrease as needs change. For example, a participant may seek more support from their care partner after an event such as a hospitalisation.

Service providers will have access to additional funding for some participants such as First Nations peoples, people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and veterans.

Participant contributions framework: Under Support at Home, participants will contribute towards the cost of some assessed services, while other services will be free of charge. These contributions will only be paid for services that have been delivered. Contribution rates will vary by the type of service received and the participant's income and assets. The Age Pension means test will be used to determine the means tested percentage contribution, and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders will pay lower contributions than other self-funded retirees.

Contributions based on services received and the income and assets of the participant: The Support at Home program will focus government funding on care needs that will help participants to remain at home and avoid hospitalisations, with participants making a greater contribution towards items they have paid or provided for themselves their entire lives.

Contribution rates will be set as a percentage of the price of each service. This means a participant will pay an amount set by their percentage contribution rate, and the government will pay the remainder of the price as a subsidy to the provider. The rate will be based on the type of service received:

- There will be no contribution for services in the Clinical category (e.g. nursing and physiotherapy), with assessed clinical care needs to be fully funded by government across the whole aged care system.

- Contributions for services in the Independence category (e.g. personal care) will be moderate, recognising that many of the services in this group play an important role in keeping people out of hospital and residential aged care.
- Everyday living services (e.g. domestic assistance and gardening) will attract the highest contribution rates, recognising that the government does not typically fund these services for any individual at other stages of life.

How much someone contributes to their supports for independence and everyday living will be based on their income and assets. The percentage contribution to the cost of services will be:

	Clinical care	Independence	Everyday living
Full pensioner	0%	5%	17.5%
Part pensioner and Commonwealth seniors health card eligible	0%	Between 5% and 50% depending on income and assets	Between 17.5% and 80% depending on income and assets
Self-funded retiree	0%	50%	80%

The means tested percentage contribution will be based on the Age Pension means test which considers income and assets. This means that part pensioners do not have to undertake a separate aged care means test as Services Australia will already hold the relevant information. Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders will have to advise Services Australia of their income and assets and update Services Australia when their circumstances change.

No worse off principle for existing Home Care participants

Packages: All individuals who have a Home Care Package (a package) on 30 June 2025 will maintain the same level of funding and retain any unspent funds under Support at Home. Individuals on the National Priority System or who have been approved for a package as of 30 June 2025 will receive a Support at Home budget equivalent to their approved package level when one becomes available. If these participants have another assessment, and are entitled to a higher level of funding, they will move to the new Support at Home classification when one becomes available.

Contributions: A *no worse off* principle will apply to the contributions arrangements for people who, on 12 September 2024, were either receiving a package, on the National Priority System, or assessed as eligible for a package. These participants will be no worse off because of the reforms: they make the same contributions, or lower, than they would have had under Home Care arrangements.

When these participants move to residential care, they will stay on the existing contribution arrangements unless they opt to move to the new program. Changes to accommodation payments in residential care would still apply to these participants, since accommodation payments are an agreement negotiated between the resident and their provider.

CABCHARGE / TRAVEL

Cabcharge is providing a valuable service to our community, handling hundreds of trips every month. The administration is easy, you present your CabCharge card to the taxi driver and the cost is transferred to our account with CabCharge and charged to your HCP account.

There are no added administration fees from Christian Home Care on taxi cards, this is part of the service mix we offer our Elders to support their travel needs.

CabCharge is not, however, providing their services for free: their service charge is increasing, as announced below, from 5% to 6%.

Please be reminded that you cannot use CabCharge and the local Government half-price card at the same time!

MESSAGE FROM CABCHARGE

Dear Valued Client,

CABCHARGE



We are writing to update you on an important change following the Victorian Essential Services Commission's recent review in August 2024. The review addressed the maximum surcharge applicable when passengers use non-cash payment methods. In line with Commission's guidelines, we will be updating our Cabcharge surcharge. **The maximum surcharge for vehicle-specific payment instruments will increase from 5% to 6% for trips taken in Victoria only.**

For more details, you can visit the [Essential Services Commission](https://www.essentialservicescommission.vic.gov.au/) website or reach out to us at client.service@cabcharge.com.au.

Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate your partnership and are here to help with any questions.

Kind regards,

The Cabcharge Team

Have you got a complaint?

At Christian Home Care we strive daily to provide excellence in Home Care Package Service Delivery. Have we missed something?

Raising your complaint promptly and directly with us gives you the best chance of a satisfactory resolution - please call us on 03 9069 6201.

If you don't receive a response to your complaint or are not satisfied with the response, you can contact Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) or an advocate.

For more information on how to raise a complaint, you can find resources on ACQSC website agedcarequality.gov.au. If you want to contact an aged care advocate, call 1800 700 600. You can contact ACQSC on 1800 951 822.



The Salvation Army

Melbourne Red Shield Band



Bandmaster: Graham Roper

Salvation Army Concert Melbourne Red Shield Band followed by afternoon tea

Friday 8th of November from 1.30pm

St. Paul's Anglican Church, 40 Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood

Please RSVP by 1st of November to

coordination@christianhomecare.com.au or (03) 9069 6200, option 4

During our Christian Home Care and Christian Home Church services and events we take photos and videos which we may use in our publications such as newsletters, invitations, presentations, websites, streamed church services, etc. By participating to our services and events you give us permission to use such photos and recordings.