

CHRISTIAN HOME CARE NEWSLETTER



ALPHA
at
CHC



Alpha

FEBRUARY 2025

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

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

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

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

JESSICA MAGNO



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

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 2

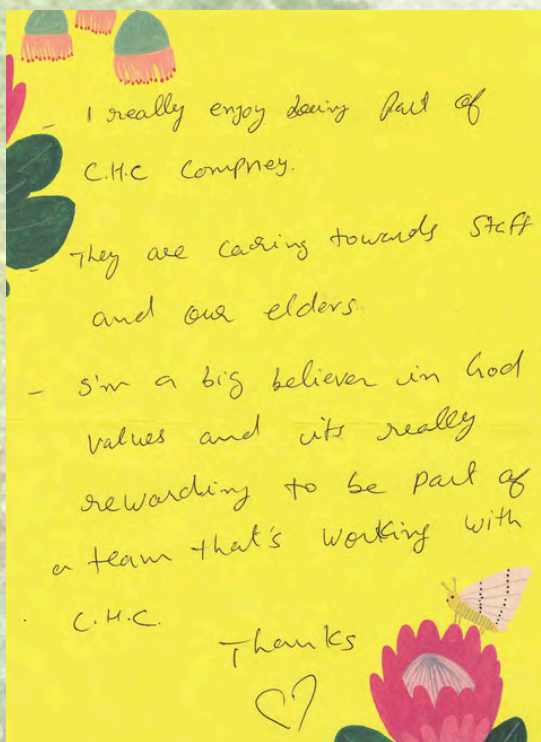
NISHANTHI DHARMAKEERTHI



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

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 3

WHAT STAFF 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:

Polonia A. Bev A. Krikor C. Alexandra C. Marlene C.
Robin D. Michela DG. Michael E. Claudia G. Rae H.
Alexandru I. Jean J. Valerie K. Milton K. Morris K.
Erika K. Patricia L. Barry M. Jennifer O. Norma P.
Maria R. Christine R. Alfonse R. Joy S. Jossie S.
Wilhelmus S. Paramsothy S. Gordon S. Elizabeth T.
Araxi T. Colin W.

Staff and Volunteers:

Val C. Neil Mu. Neil Mo. Lynette K. John C.

CHRISTIAN HOME CARE NEWS

Monthly Newsletter

Word of the month: Alpha

Page 03

New Aged Care Act

Page 04,05 and 08

Alpha Gatherings Commence at CHC

Page 06

Christian Home Church

Page 07

Reminiscing on Christmas Luncheon

Page 09

Reminiscing on our Australia Day Celebration

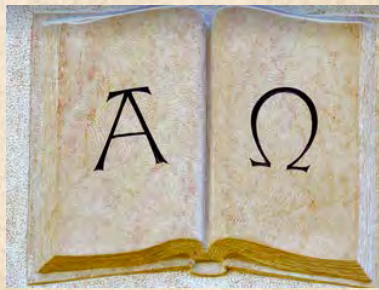
Page 10

Meal Providers Classification

Page 11

Valentine's Day Invitation

Page 12



WORD OF THE MONTH: ALPHA

I remember how, growing up, I would get excited about something done with great skill that I was very keen to imitate. One winter, after watching ice skating championships, I quickly went out with a pair of ice skates and ventured, full of confidence, on the icy, slippery outdoors. You can imagine the result: started well, could not turn or stop, next thing I found myself flat on the frozen ground. What went wrong? It looked so easy how the skaters competing on TV were sliding effortlessly along the ring. I got up, and launched again. The result: the same, founding myself again on the ground. In time I learned that to get to Omega, you need to start at Alpha. It takes time to learn and progress, nothing is easy. In Revelation 1:8, God says:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

The best way to start in any project, and in life in general, is to begin align with God's wisdom, from alpha.

You may be just finding out about Christianity, or maybe you have been a devout Christian all your life; our invitation this year is to join us for Alpha, learn something new or revisit the Bible's wisdom, make new friends, live the Christian life in our community.

Ready to get to Omega? Let's meet for Alpha (further details on page 6).

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-13.

Looking forward to see you at the Alpha starting line, and run the good race through the Bible together!

By Dinu Stamatescu



Summary of amendments to the new Aged Care Act

The new Aged Care Act will put the rights and needs of older people at the centre of the aged care system. The Australian Parliament considered a range of issues and recommendations to decide what amendments to make to the new laws.

Summary of amendments

The Australian Parliament (the Parliament) passed the Aged Care Bill 2024 (the Bill) on 25 November 2024. It became the *Aged Care Act 2024* when it received Royal Assent by the Governor-General on 2 December 2024.

The new Act will start from 1 July 2025. During the parliamentary process, members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate made amendments to the Bill.

An amendment is a change made to a bill during its passage through the Parliament. It is a critical part of the law-making process. Any member of parliament can suggest an amendment. Members of parliament then debate and vote for or against the amendment.

The main amendments to the Bill are outlined and explained below.

Quarterly reporting of waiting periods for certain funded aged care services

The Parliament amended the Bill to require the System Governor to report quarterly to the Minister on waiting periods for certain services. Sections 338 and 342 of the new Act reflect this amendment.

Timeframes for Complaints Commissioner determinations

The Parliament amended the Bill to ensure that the Aged Care Rules (the Rules) specify timeframes for handling certain complaints made to the Complaints Commissioner. This also includes preparing written statements (complaint determinations and giving complaint determinations to the person who made the complaint). Section 361 of the new Act reflects this amendment

Fee Reduction Supplement applies to financial hardship

Some members of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee recommended that the Bill be clearer about the definition of hardship and what supports are available to someone experiencing hardship. During the public submission process, some members of the public also raised this issue. The Parliament amended the Bill to improve transparency for older people and mandate financial hardship as grounds to claim the fee reduction supplement. Sections 197, 214, 223, and 231 of the new Act reflect these amendments.

Independent review of accommodation pricing

The Parliament amended the Bill to enforce a review of the Accommodation Supplement and the provision of a report to the Parliament. This must be done no later than 26 July 2026. Section 600A of the new Act reflects this amendment.

Senate Committee review of Rules

The Parliament amended the Bill to refer any Rules related to certain provisions in the new Act to a Senate Committee for review. This must be done within three months of the Rules being tabled in the Senate. Subsections 602(12) and 602(13) of the new Act reflect this amendment.

Sunsetting of restrictive practices immunity

From 1 December 2026, the immunity in section 163 of the new Act, related to restrictive practices, will no longer apply.

While the immunity at section 163 of the new Act is only intended to apply where restrictive practices have been used in a way that is consistent with the requirements under the legislation, this amendment signals the current arrangements are a temporary measure, subject to State and Territories implementing compliant legislation.

This amendment ensures that providers must comply with both the requirements of the new Act and any other relevant state and territory laws. This will ensure that restrictive practices are only used where necessary and proportionate, and only in specific circumstances. Section 163 of the new Act reflects this amendment.

Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) retention amount

The Parliament amended the Bill to cap the deductions that a provider can claim from a RAD each year. Section 308 of the new Act reflects this amendment. The new Act also includes an additional subsection to ensure that providers must not deduct a RAD retention amount greater than 2% in any year.

Statement of Rights

ALPHA AT CHC

We are very excited to announce the start of an Alpha group at Christian Home Care!

Whether you are Christian Home Care Elders or family members, our staff, volunteers, contractors or friends of CHC, you are very warmly invited to be part of this community initiative.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a friendly place where we welcome you, share food together, watch a 30 minute film, chat, ask any questions, listen and enjoy.

No matter what background, faith, or walk of life, we ALL have questions, and we all deserve a safe space to ask them. Alpha is that space.

Great company, great conversations about life, faith and meaning. No pressure, No charge. You can ask questions, you can tell what you think, you can just listen. You're welcome at Alpha.

Alpha began in London in 1977 and since then, all over the world, millions of people have tried Alpha and it has been translated into 112 different languages.

The Alpha small groups are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith through watching a short film and unpacking the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?"



Exploring the big questions in life is important. Have you explored life, faith, and meaning? Alpha is a place where you can bring all your questions. No question is too big or too small to explore.



Alpha is about building community & friendships. You'll never know until you go. It's good to explore. We're built for it. Humans need connection.

If you are keen to join our CHC community, try Alpha with us. Alpha is all about helping you get connected with others and explore faith in a relaxed environment. The best conversations are the ones where you don't have to worry about what people say, you can just be you.

CHC will organise the meetings, provide the food and everything needed.

Each time we will share food, stories, we will watch a 30 minute film and we will chat about it while strengthening our community and growing our relationship with each other.

We propose the following structure, but happy to go with what suits most people - just let us know soon if other days/time suit you better.

When? Sundays at 2pm
Commencing 16 March 2025
How often? Once a fortnight for 2 hours
How many times? Six to eight meetings in total
How much does it cost? Nil. Is a free gift.
Where? In Ringwood (exact details to follow based on the size of the group - please let us know as soon as you can if you are interested).

To register or enquire please email Anca on anca@christianhomecare.com.au or ring our office on (03) 9069 6200 and select option 4

The information in this article is extracted from Alpha, <https://alpha.org/>

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 service and afternoon tea meetings are planned for:

Wednesday 12/02, 26/02, 12/03 and so on fortnightly. 12/02 will also be our Valentine's Day celebration!

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

40 Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood 3134

and there is ample parking. 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 (03) 9069 6200, select option 4 or coordination@christianhomecare.com.au

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.

ALPHA

Our Newsletters this year focus each month on a new Alpha topic.

This month - Introduction to Alpha.

Stay tuned for more details to come, looking forward to seeing you at our first session!

PSALM OF THE MONTH

Psalms 119:1-7

Aleph א

- 1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—
- 3 they do no wrong
but follow his ways.
- 4 You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!
- 6 Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, as I learn your righteous laws.

The Parliament amended the Statement of Rights contained in the Bill to allow that an individual has a right to access, at any time, a designated person of their choice or one nominated by an appropriate authority. Subsection 23(13) of the new Act reflects this amendment.

Review of the legislation

The Parliament amended the Bill to bring forward a review of the new Act from five years to three years from commencement. Section 600 of the new Act reflects this amendment.

Worker voice

The Parliament amended the Bill to remove reference to the 'worker voice'. The amendments remove a condition of registration that a provider must offer their workforce the opportunity to establish a quality care worker voice body. Section 158 of the new Act reflects this amendment.

No worse off principle

The Parliament amended Chapter 4 of the Bill to allow for the Rules to advise different methods or requirements for the calculation of:

- subsidies
- individual contributions
- accommodation payments
- means testing.

Older people approved for home care on or before 12 September 2024 or who entered permanent residential care prior to the commencement of the new Act are exempt from some of the new funding arrangements. The amendments also ensure that unspent home care funds paid under the existing Act can be used or returned to the Australian Government under the new Act. These amendments ensure individuals approved under existing arrangements should generally not pay more for their care under the new Act.

Caps on cleaning and gardening

Some changes were announced during the parliamentary process to remove caps on cleaning and gardening under Support at Home. This will help older people to retain their independence at home. This is covered in the Aged Care Service List in the Rules, which outlines the services available under the new Act.

Find out more

You can read more about the parliamentary amendments and final version of the new Act on the Australian Parliament website www.aph.gov.au and on the Federal Register of Legislation www.legislation.gov.au.

REMINISCING ON OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Thank you for attending our Christmas Luncheon!
It has been the largest attendance so far with 134 people, stretching the limit of the 2 rooms we book from Kilsyth Club.



REMINISCING ON OUR AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION



Happy Australia Day!

A wonderful way to start 2025, dwelling on our unity as Australian people, part of the great family of God

REST IN PEACE, SMARO!

Farewelling Smaro - such a joy to have known and served her. Our prayers go to her daughter, Effie, our colleague since CHC started in 2018. Rest in peace, smiling Smaro!



MEAL PROVIDERS CLASSIFICATION

Frozen meals delivered to your home are a great support that is part of what Home Care Packages can do for our Elders. We are getting every month requests to onboard new providers, as there is significant competition and also creativity in this industry.

While we are very willing to onboard your preferred meal provider, please be aware that, for your safety, the Government has an extra compliance requirement for meals providers, in addition to the general requirements (such as suitable insurance, entering in a contractual agreement with CHC, police checks for staff entering your homes). The extra requirement is that the meal providers have to be classified as "Class 1 food premises".

A class 1 food premise is qualified to prepare food that "is intended to be delivered to aged persons in their homes or other persons who, due to illness, frailty or impairment are unable to prepare their own food, and the food served, or intended to be delivered, includes potentially hazardous food."

Your preferred meals provider has to qualify and have proof that they hold a class 1 status in order for Government funding (such as the home care package funding) to be utilised towards purchase of meals.

CARPET CLEANING

The Government classifies professional carpet cleaning as a general household service and excludes this type of cleaning from the services that can be provided through the home care package.

There is an exception in the case of a person requiring professional carpet cleaning in an area that has been soiled due to "permanent and severe incontinence, as per the definition used by the Continence Aids Payment Scheme".

In this case your GP would be able to provide a letter specifying the condition as described above.

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.



Valentine's Day Celebration

We warmly invite you to celebrate with us

**Wednesday
12th of February**

starting at 2 pm with our church service and followed by a special afternoon tea celebration from 3pm

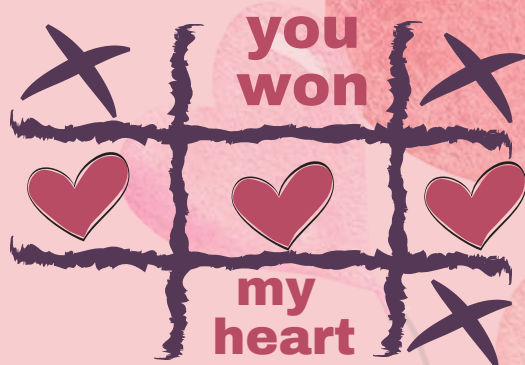
You can join us from 2 pm for the full event or pop in from 3 pm for the afternoon tea

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

Please RSVP by the 10th of February

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

Please also advise us if you need a Caregiver to assist.



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.