



CHRISTIAN HOME CARE NEWSLETTER

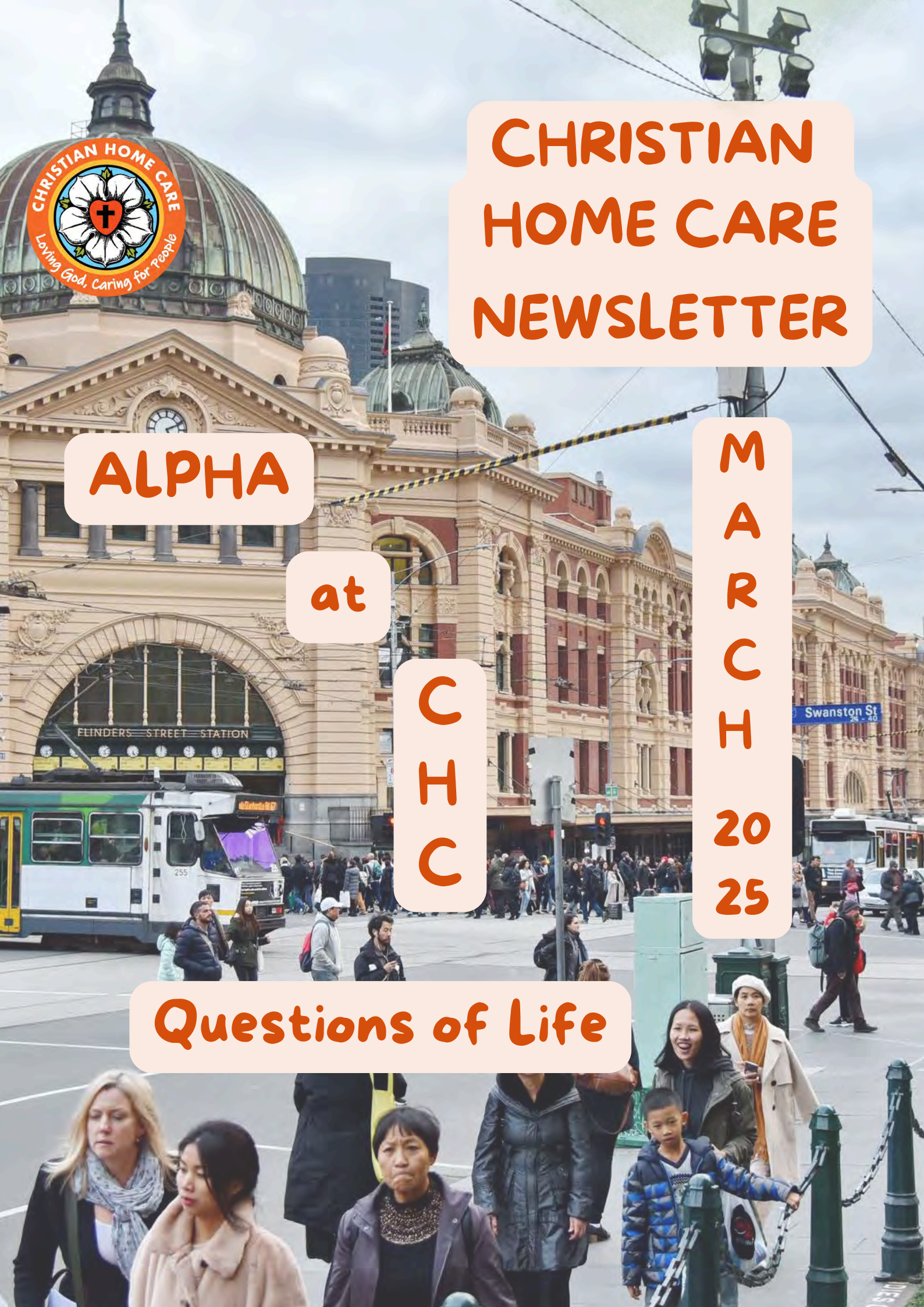
ALPHA

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Questions of Life



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:

Thank you
for the wonderful,
sincere, kind work
that you do to keep
our loved ones in
their homes.
Very special

Regards Karen

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:

Michael B. Jan K. Hazel L.
Jeanette M. Antonia P.
Helen T. Derry T.

Staff and Volunteers:

Jessica M. Mellisa K.

CHRISTIAN HOME CARE NEWS

Monthly Newsletter

Word of the month: Alphabet

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Alpha Invitation

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WORD OF THE MONTH: ALPHABET

Early in my school years I learned that, in order to be able to read and write, you must know the alphabet. For this important task you need to start somewhere and the best is... A (or alpha, in the Greek alphabet), then B (beta), and so on. The journey is long, and not easy (especially in countries like Romania, where the language has variants of letters, like A and Ă).

When Anca and I felt really called to faith, we started somewhere: we stepped into St Paul's Lutheran Church in Box Hill, our home church ever since. We started attending services, getting used to the Lutheran liturgy. Along the way, we had many questions:

- Why do we confess our sins weekly for God's forgiveness, when we believe we have behaved quite honorably every day of the week?
- Why do we take communion, and why do we eat the body of Christ and drink his blood, for forgiveness?
- Did Jesus really win over death and was resurrected, or this is just a beautiful story?

Thankfully, our questions were answered over time by the Pastors guiding us and our understanding of the scripture is growing ever since.

Have you got questions when you hear passages like ***"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'*"** John 14:6.

We all have questions, and God provides answers in many different ways. One of them is to join us for Alpha starting Sunday the 16th of March at 2:00 pm and you can ask all the questions you may have about life, Jesus Christ, God and anything else. Don't expect expert answers, but the conversation, the company, the Alpha videos which will be a good start to explore the meaning of life in a different, rich way.

You are welcome, looking forward to seeing you there!

By Dinu Stamatescu

SUPPORT AT HOME REMINDERS & UPDATES

We are continuing to inform you in regard to Support at Home, as updates become available from the Government. CHC published previously details about the new Aged Care Act, the new Support at Home program, the levels for funding, etc. Please see below some reminders and updates; we shall continue to inform you until the new Government system becomes operational.

Support at Home is being implemented using a staged approach.

From 1 July 2025, Support at Home will replace the Home Care Packages Program and the Short-Term Restorative Care Programme.

CHC continues to be your package provider, our partnership remains unchanged and we will continue to assist you with your care needs and services.

Home care recipients transitioning to the new program from July 2025 will be allocated Support at Home funding that is equivalent to their existing Home Care Package level and aligned to the new legislated program rules. The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will transition to Support at Home no earlier than 1 July 2027.

Indicative Budget Amounts - the dollar figures in the below table are current estimates:

**TABLE I.
SUPPORT AT HOME
INDICATIVE
BUDGET AMOUNTS**

Classification	Quarterly Budget	Annual Amount
1	~\$2,750	~\$11,000
2	~\$4,000	~\$16,000
3	~\$5,500	~\$22,000
4	~\$7,500	~\$30,000
5	~\$10,000	~\$40,000
6	~\$12,000	~\$48,000
7	~\$14,500	~\$58,000
8	~\$19,500	~\$78,000
Restorative Care Pathway	~\$6,000 (12 weeks) May be increased to ~\$12,000 when eligible	
End-of-Life Pathway	~\$25,000 (12 weeks)	
Assistive Technology and Home Modifications	Low, medium and high funding tiers based on assessed need.	

What this means for participants:

- Classification levels that better target the aged care needs of participants, with the ability to be re-assessed into higher levels as their needs change.
- Home care recipients, including people on the National Priority System, will retain the level of funding of their approved Home Care Package until re-assessed to a new classification.

SUPPORT AT HOME REMINDERS & UPDATES

Quarterly individual budgets

A Support at Home participant's classification amount will be divided into 4 approximately equal budgets that each cover 3 months of the year. Participants who have not spent their budget within the quarter will be able to accrue a maximum of \$1000 or 10% of their quarterly budget (whichever is higher) from one quarter to the next. Budgets will be held on behalf of a participant in an account managed by Services Australia.

The service list will outline all services available under Support at Home, with clear inclusions and exclusions. A participant can only use their budget for services that they have been assessed as requiring and as documented in their notice of decision and accompanying support plan.

What this means for participants:

Participants and their provider have the flexibility to manage their funding each quarter, in line with services they have been approved to access.

Participant contributions

The Aged Care Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established in June 2023 to review future aged care funding arrangements and provide options to government to support an aged care system that is sustainable, fair and equitable and innovative.

The government response to the Taskforce was released on 12 September 2024 and includes a contribution framework based on the Taskforce's recommendations on balancing government funding and participant contributions, including that:

- government will continue to be the main funder of aged care providing 89% of funding
- it is appropriate for older people to contribute to their aged care costs where they have the means to do so (e.g., self-funded retirees with sufficient means to contribute based on an income assessment conducted by Services Australia)
- there is a strong safety net for low means participants to meet aged care costs.

Participant contribution arrangements

Under Support at Home, participants will only pay contributions on the services they have received. The contributions will be calculated on a rate per hour (or unit of service) at a set percentage of the price for each service type, where applicable. For example, if a person receives two hours of personal care, they will pay a contribution per hour received. If they receive 5 meals, they will pay a contribution for each meal. Where items are billed at cost (e.g. consumables) the contribution will be calculated as a percentage of that cost.

This means:

- a participant will pay the dollar amount set by a percentage of the price (or cost)
- the government will pay the remainder of the price (or cost), as a subsidy to the provider.

(continued on page 8)

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Extracts from “Questions of Life” by Nicky Gumbel, Alpha founder and public figure

“For many years I had three objections to the Christian faith. First, I thought it was boring. I went to chapel at school and found it very dull. I had sympathy with the novelist Robert Louis Stevenson who once entered in his diary, as if recording an extraordinary phenomenon, ‘I have been to church today, and am not depressed.’ My impression of the Christian faith was that it was dreary and uninspiring.

Second, it seemed to me to be untrue. I had intellectual objections to the Christian faith and described myself as an atheist. In fact, I rather pretentiously called myself a logical determinist. When I was fourteen, I wrote an essay for Religious Studies in which I tried to destroy the whole of Christianity and disprove the existence of God. Rather surprisingly, it was put forward for a prize! I had knock-down arguments against the Christian faith and rather enjoyed arguing with Christians, on each occasion thinking I had won some great victory.

Third, I thought that Christianity was irrelevant to my life. I could not see how something that happened 2,000 years ago and 2,000 miles away in the Middle East could have any relevance to my life today. At school we often used to sing that much-loved hymn ‘Jerusalem’, which asks, ‘And did those feet in ancient time walk upon England’s mountains green?’ We all knew that the answer was, ‘No, they did not.’ Jesus never came anywhere near England!

With hindsight, I realise that it was partly my fault as I never really listened and so did not know very much about the Christian faith. There are many people today who don’t know much about



Jesus Christ, or what he did, or anything else about Christianity.

One hospital chaplain listed some of the replies he was given to the question, ‘Would you like Holy Communion?’ These are some of the answers:

- ‘No thanks, I’m Church of England.’
- No thanks, I asked for cornflakes.’
- ‘No thanks, I’ve never been circumcised.’

Not only was I ignorant about the Christian faith but also, looking back, my experience was that something was missing.

Men and women were created to live in a relationship with God. Without that relationship there will always be a hunger, an emptiness, a feeling that something is missing. Bernard Levin, perhaps the greatest columnist of his generation, once wrote an article called ‘Life’s Great Riddle, and No Time to Find its Meaning’. In it he said that in spite of his great success he feared he might have ‘wasted reality in the chase of a dream’.

He was not religious, writing on one occasion, ‘For the fourteen thousandth time, I am not a Christian.’

Jesus Christ said, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life’ (John 14:6). The implications of his claim were as startling in the first century as they are in the twenty-first. So what are we to make of it?”

Join us for the first session of Alpha on the 16th of March, 2:00 pm - a good time for asking any questions you may have about Christianity!

Invitation details are on page 12.

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 12/03, 26/3 and so on fortnightly.

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:

"Is there more to life than this?"

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

PSALM OF THE MONTH

Psalm 119:9-16: Beth ב

9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

10 I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

12 Praise be to you, Lord;
teach me your decrees.

13 With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.

14 I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.

15 I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.

16 I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

SUPPORT AT HOME REMINDERS & UPDATES

(continued from page 5)

The contribution rate will be based on two factors:

The type of service received:

- no contribution for services in the clinical supports category (e.g., nursing and physiotherapy) – clinical care will be fully funded by government for all participants.
- moderate contributions for services in the independence category (e.g., personal care, assistive technology and home modifications) – recognising that many of these supports play an important role in keeping participants out of hospital and residential aged care.
- highest contribution rates for everyday living services (e.g., domestic assistance and gardening) – recognising that the government does not typically fund these services for any individual at other stages of life.

The participant’s age-pension status, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card status, and means.

This will be different from the current Home Care Packages Program fee arrangements (the basic daily fee and income tested care fee) that do not vary based on the level of services used.

Participant contribution levels

The standard Support at Home participant contribution rates as a percentage of service prices are described in the table below (Table 2):

	Clinical supports	Independence	Everyday living
Full pensioner	0%	5%	17.5%
Part pensioner	0%	Part pensioners and CSHC holders will pay between 5%-50% based on an assessment of their income and assets. For part pensioners this will be based on their Age Pension means assessment. CSHC holders will undergo a separate assessment for Support at Home.	Part pensioners and CSHC holders will pay between 17.5%-80% based on an assessment of their income and assets. For part pensioners this will be based on their Age Pension means assessment. CSHC holders will undergo a separate assessment for Support at Home.
Self-funded retiree (holding or eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card - CSHC)	0%		
Self-funded retiree (not eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card)	0%	50%	80%

TABLE 2.
SUPPORT AT HOME
CONTRIBUTION
RATE

SUPPORT AT HOME REMINDERS & UPDATES

Contribution arrangements for existing home care recipients

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 Package (HCP) Program arrangements.

If you are a full rate pensioner paying no fees under your HCP as at 12 September 2024, you will never pay fees under Support at Home.

If you were required to pay fees under your HCP as at 12 September 2024, the contribution rates may change but you will pay the same or less under Support at Home.

If you are re-assessed after 1 July 2025, you will be allocated a Support at Home classification that is equivalent or higher than your current HCP package. The contribution amount you may contribute to the services you receive as part of the re-assessment may change, depending on the volume and type of services received.

When these participants move to residential care, they will stay on the existing contribution arrangements for residential care unless they opt to move to the new program contribution arrangements. 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.

Individuals in Category B below only, will have a preserved contribution rate as shown in Table 4 on the page 11.

(continued on page 10)

CHC remains your Support at Home Service Provider during the changes described in this Newsletter and after the 1st of July 2025

Our team is working steadily to prepare for the changes from Home Care Packages to Support at Home.

We are also here to guide you through the changes - do not hesitate to ask us any questions that you may have.

We are travelling stronger, together!

SUPPORT AT HOME REMINDERS & UPDATES

TABLE 3.

SUPPORT AT HOME TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOME CARE RECIPIENTS

Categories	Is the individual approved for HCP before announcement?	Is the individual receiving HCP before 1 July 2025?	Does / would the individual pay an income-tested care fee under HCP?	Support at Home fees for that individual
Category A: HCP non-income tested care fee payer, or person on the NPS or approved for a package who would be a non-fee payer once they receive a package	Yes	Yes	No	No fees.
Category B: HCP income tested care fee-payer, or person on the NPS or approved for a package who based on their means would be a fee-payer once they receive a package	Yes	Yes	Yes	These recipients will be protected by the no worse off principle and pay discounted contribution rates at Table 4 .
Category C: Person assessed but not approved for HCP and on the queue for HCP income means assessment, at announcement	No	Unknown	Unknown (but they're on the queue for income assessment)	Older person gets a HCP means assessment – moves to the Support at Home contribution arrangements at Table 2 from July 2025, regardless of whether they receive an HCP before 1 July 2025.
Category D: new HCP entrant after announcement – HCP fee payer	No	Yes	Yes	Older person will pay the regular rates as per Table 2 from July 2025.
Category E: new HCP entrant after announcement – HCP non-fee payer	No	Yes	No	Older person will pay the regular rates as per Table 2 from July 2025.
Category F: new entrants after Support at Home commences	No	No	No	Older person will pay the regular rates as per Table 2 .

Individuals in Category B below only, will have a preserved contribution rate as shown in Table 4 on the next page:

SUPPORT AT HOME REMINDERS & UPDATES

	Clinical supports	Independence	Everyday living
Full pensioner	0%	0%	0%
Part pensioner	0%	Part pensioners and CSHC holders will pay between 0%-25% based on an assessment of their income and assets. For part pensioners this will be based on their Age Pension means assessment. CSHC holders will undergo a separate assessment for Support at Home.	Part pensioners and CSHC holders will pay between 0%-25% based on an assessment of their income and assets. For part pensioners this will be based on their Age Pension means assessment. CSHC holders will undergo a separate assessment for Support at Home.
Self-funded retiree (holding or eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card)	0%		
Self-funded retiree (not eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card)	0%	25%	25%

TABLE 4.
SUPPORT AT
HOME
TRANSITION
CONTRIBUTION
RATES

Participants who have reached a lifetime cap of \$130,000 in individual contributions across Support at Home and the non-clinical care component of their contribution to residential care, will not pay further individual contributions under Support at Home once this lifetime cap is reached. Hardship arrangements that were in place before 1 July 2025 will carry through to Support at Home. Once existing hardship arrangements expire, participants will be required to pay the transitional individual contribution rates outlined in Table 4 and can reapply for a new fee reduction supplement, if needed.

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.

Alpha Gatherings

at CHC start on
Sunday 16th of March at 2pm
Location: 14 Panfield Ave, Ringwood

**All welcome! Come with us
through the journey!**

We share a meal,
we make friends,
we chat,
we watch a 20 min Alpha movie,
we explore the big questions of life

The meals are provided by CHC

Please RSVP asap for organisational purposes.

Contact Anca (03) 9069 6202 or anca@christianhomecare.com.au

