



Julie Collins

Federal Member for Franklin



The Hon Scott Morrison MP
 Prime Minister
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

Dear ~~Prime~~ ^{Scott} Minister

I write to you regarding the home care packages waitlist.

As you know, the March 2018 quarter of data showing more than 108,000 older Australians waiting for a home care package is of great concern. Equally concerning is the more than 53,000 older Australians who are on the waitlist and have no home care package at all.

This data also states that most of these vulnerable older Australians will be waiting more than a year for a level 3 and level 4 packages. Like Labor, I'm sure you would agree this situation is totally unacceptable.

I wrote to the Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP, in March this year and expressed my fears that without some form of intervention by the Government the home care packages waitlist would keep growing. My concerns were confirmed with the latest quarter of data once again indicating that the waitlist is on an upward trajectory.

We are now entering a critical time where interventions will be required to address the growing waitlist.

Given the March 2018 quarter of data was delayed by more than three months I would have anticipated that a suite of measures would have been undertaken to curb the home care packages waitlist.

Unfortunately, it appears that no action has been taken.

I know you are aware of the funding cuts that have been made to aged care given you were the Treasurer that signed off on the past three Budgets. This includes a cut to residential aged care placements in the 2018-19 Budget to pay for 14,000 home care packages.

It is clear from listening to stakeholders that residential aged care and home care cannot sustain further cuts.

That's why I was very encouraged by the comments you made about making aged care a priority when you first became Prime Minister.

I therefore take this opportunity to again call on the Government to make aged care a priority and address the growing home care package waitlist as a matter of urgency.

Given the seriousness of this issue I again reiterate my willingness to work with the Government in bipartisanship to progress aged care reform. This includes addressing the home care package waitlist.

I look forward to hearing from you in regards to these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Collins MP
Shadow Minister for Ageing and Mental Health
Federal Member for Franklin

1) September 2018

cc Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP