



11 December 2025

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

The Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and its Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine (AChPM) is grateful for the opportunity to provide input into the Committee's Inquiry into the Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program, particularly in relation to the End-of-Life (EOL) Pathway.

The RACP is well positioned to contribute expertise and insights to the effective and equitable implementation of the EOL pathway through improving the delivery of palliative care within the home care setting. Our members, including palliative medicine specialists and geriatricians, have extensive experience in supporting older Australians to receive high-quality, person-centred care at the end of life.

The RACP welcomes the inclusions of the EOL Pathway noting this is a significant step towards assisting more older Australians live and die well at home. However, we have some key concerns regarding the implementation of the EOL pathway in relation to:

- **Fair access to personal care** – Ensuring that personal care services are fully subsidised for those receiving palliative care, preventing financial barriers that may delay essential care.
- **Budget flexibility** – Allowing individuals with life-limiting illnesses to carry over funds to manage fluctuating care needs.
- **Timely budget assessments** – Implementing fast-track processes for people at the end of life to access their full entitlement without delay.
- **End-of-life pathway reform** – Moving towards a more flexible, needs-based approach rather than rigid eligibility timeframes.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with officials of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in October to discuss these concerns. We were pleased that officials were cognisant of these issues and have some safeguards in place, particularly around the timeliness and time limits regarding the EOL pathway funding.

We understand the Department will be closely monitoring the implementation of the EOL Pathway, as well as other elements of the Support at Home program, to ensure they are fit for purpose.

However, we continue to have concerns that, due to the limitations of the current policies for the EOL Pathway, the implementation of these policies will lead to poor outcomes for individuals.

The RACP recommends that the Committee consider the removal or an extension of the time limit on the EOL Pathway funding, so people do not have services decreased or withdrawn completely at the very time they need it most.

If you require any further information, please contact Emily O'Donnell, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, via the RACP Policy and Advocacy unit

Sincerely,

Dr Gauri Gogna
AChPM President