

# **PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

## **Department of Health and Aged Care**

### **Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

#### **Inquiry into the Aged Care Bill 2024 (Provisions)**

**03 October 2024**

**PDR Number:** IQ24-000171

#### **Government funded aged care services process**

#### **Written**

**Senator:** Marielle Smith

#### **Question:**

How will the process for accessing government funded aged care services change under the Bill

#### **Answer:**

- Under the Bill, a person will still be able to call My Aged Care or be referred through one of the existing referral pathways, and will then be referred to an assessment organisation.
- To proceed to an aged care needs assessment, a person will need to have provided certain information to demonstrate their care needs, and be either:
  - aged 65 or over, or
  - aged 50 or over, and is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or homeless or at risk of homelessness, and be informed about other services that may be available to them.
- The needs assessment will identify whether a person requires access to funded aged care services and which services they need.
- These arrangements are consistent with the Statement of Rights, which recognises that an individual has the right to equitable access to have their needs for funded aged care services assessed, or reassessed.
- Ahead of the Bill's commencement, the Government has established the Single Assessment System, to help ensure aged care assessments are streamlined, efficient and timely, improving access to aged care services.

- The Single Assessment System is being implemented through a staged approach.
  - The introduction of the new Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) to undertake needs assessments from 1 July 2024 was the first stage.
  - For the second stage, from late 2024, Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT), Regional Assessment Service (RAS), and Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) assessment workforces will transition into the 'Single Assessment System workforce'.
  - For the third stage, to provide a culturally safe pathway for older First Nations people to enter the aged care system, First Nations assessment organisations will be established incrementally from July 2025.