

# **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: IQ24-000135**

**Individual contributions in the new Support at Home program**

**Written**

**Senator:** Marielle Smith

**Question:**

How will individual contributions work in the new Support at Home program

**Answer:**

Under Support at Home, contributions will only be paid for services that have been delivered. Contribution rates will vary by the type of service received and the participant's income and assets. The Age Pension means test will be used to determine the means tested percentage contribution, and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) holders will pay lower contributions than other self-funded retirees.

Contribution rates will be set as a percentage of the price of each service. The government will pay the remainder. The rate will be based on the type of service received:

- No contribution for services in the Clinical category (e.g. nursing care and allied health). This means that assessed clinical care to be fully funded by government.
- Contributions for services in the Independence category (e.g. personal care) will be moderate, recognising that many of the services in this group play an important role in keeping people out of hospital and residential aged care.
- Everyday living services (e.g. domestic assistance and gardening) will attract the highest contribution rates, recognising that the government does not typically fund these services for any individual at other stages of life.

How much someone contributes to their supports for independence and everyday living will be based on their income and assets.

- Full rate pensioners will pay a flat rate of 5% for independence services and 17.5% for everyday living services.
- Part pensioners and CSHC holders will have tapered contributions depending on their income and assets. These contributions will be on a sliding scale between 5% and 50% for independence, and 17.5% and 80% for everyday living.
- Self-funded retirees who are not eligible for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card will pay a flat rate of 50% for independence services and 80% for everyday living services.

	<b>Clinical</b>	<b>Independence</b>	<b>Everyday living</b>
<b>Full pensioner</b>	0%	5%	17.5%
<b>Part pensioner and CSHC</b>	0%	from 5% to 50% depending on income and assets	from 17.5% to 80% depending on income and assets
<b>Self-funded retiree</b>	0%	50%	80%

The Age Pension means test will be used to determine the contributions for part pensioners and CSHC holders.

Part pensioners will not need to undergo a separate means assessment for Support at Home. The information they have provided to Services Australia for their Age Pension means assessment will be used to determine what their contribution rate is for Support at Home.

CSHC holders will need to undergo a means assessment with Services Australia to determine their contribution rates for Support at Home. If they do not provide the information that Services Australia needs for this, they will pay the self-funded retiree contribution rates.