

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: IQ24-000167

Restorative Care Pathway Support at Home

Written

Senator: Marielle Smith

Question:

What is the Restorative Care Pathway under Support at Home?

Answer:

The Restorative Care Pathway under Support at Home will replace the Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Programme from 1 July 2025.

The Restorative Care Pathway will focus on early intervention and prevention to restore function, supporting participants to remain independent at home for longer.

Participants will receive coordinated allied health services to help them achieve their goals and slow functional decline.

The new Restorative Care Pathway will provide 5,000 places per quarter, an increase from 2,269 under STRC.

Eligibility to the Restorative Care Pathway is assessed via an aged care assessment and will be documented in the notice of decision and accompanying support plan.

Under the new Restorative Care Pathway, a participant will be eligible for up to 12 weeks of restorative support with a focus on intensive allied health to regain function and build strength and capabilities.

This may be extended further to up to 16 weeks in certain circumstances (e.g., additional time to deliver services in regional and remote areas or to build relationships and trust in the delivery of culturally safe care).

A participant may access the Restorative Care Pathway for no more than 2 episodes of restorative care within a 12-month period, which cannot be in consecutive quarters.

A restorative care partner will support participants undergoing a restorative care episode to identify goals, develop a plan and coordinate services to help meet those goals within the available time period.

Participants approved for the Restorative Care Pathway at assessment will receive a budget of around \$6,000 for the 12-week episode. For participants in receipt of an ongoing Support at Home budget, this would be in addition to their ongoing budget amount. For new participants, their ongoing needs will be determined at the conclusion of the restorative care episode.

Where a restorative care partner determines that additional services are required within the 12-week period, they may seek approval for up to an additional \$6,000 to be used within that period.

In addition, participants will be able to access assistive technology and/or home modifications if required through the separately funded AT-HM Scheme.