

# **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:** IQ24-000166

#### **End-of-Life Pathway Support at home**

#### **Written**

**Senator:** Marielle Smith

#### **Question:**

What is the End-of-Life Pathway under Support at Home

#### **Answer:**

Support at Home will have an End-of-Life Pathway, commencing from 1 July 2025, to support participants who have been diagnosed with 3 months or less to live and wish to remain at home by providing an increase in the level of services available.

The End-of-Life Pathway will be the highest funding classification (per day) under Support at Home. This will support the increased need for services in the last 3 months of life. A total of \$25,000 will be available per eligible participant over a 3-month period, with a total of 16 weeks to use the funds to provide additional flexibility. Older people assessed as requiring end-of-life care will also be able to access assistive technology under the assistive technologies and home modifications (AT-HM) Scheme.

The eligibility requirements for accessing the End-of-Life Pathway are:

- a doctor or nurse practitioner advising estimated life expectancy of less than 3 months
- Australian-modified Karnofsky Performance Status score (mobility/frailty indicator) of 40 or less.

End-of-Life Pathway services will be no different to those available in ongoing classifications, as set out in the Support at Home service list.

Note that specialist palliative care services will not be provided through the End-of-Life Pathway under Support at Home. The pathway is intended to provide additional in-home aged care services that will complement services available under state and territory-based specialist palliative care schemes. For example, state and territory schemes offer symptom management (including pain), assistance with advance care planning, and specialist advice and education.

A participant can only access the End-of-Life pathway once – should they live longer than expected or make a recovery, they would move onto the relevant Support at Home classification determined at their assessment or seek a re-assessment if needed.