

Strengthening Medicare – Supporting Older Australians (South Australia)

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – HEALTH

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth and South Australia
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 October 2028 or upon completion of the initiative(s), including final performance reporting.
Purpose	<p>This agreement’s objective is to support older people who are or are at-risk of becoming long stay older patients by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoiding hospital presentation and admission; • where hospital admission is necessary, reducing the length of the in-hospital stay; • supporting earlier discharge; and • improving the transition out of hospital to other appropriate care. <p>This Schedule will support the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geriatric Outreach Service Multidisciplinary care teams delivering specialist geriatric assessment, care planning and care to support patients to transition to residential aged care and to prevent unnecessary hospitalisations. • Patient Support Initiative Administration of equipment grants, transition support payments and short-term care assistance to residential aged care homes and other settings, to support the discharge of patients with complex needs.

<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to South Australia of \$42.89m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>2025-26</th> <th>2026-27</th> <th>2027-28</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated total budget*</td> <td>10.18</td> <td>10.44</td> <td>11.26</td> <td>11.01</td> <td>42.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less estimated National Partnership Payments*</td> <td>10.18</td> <td>10.44</td> <td>11.26</td> <td>11.01</td> <td>42.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Totals may not add due to rounding.</p>	(\$ million)	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total	Estimated total budget*	10.18	10.44	11.26	11.01	42.89	Less estimated National Partnership Payments*	10.18	10.44	11.26	11.01	42.89	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p>South Australia will ensure the Commonwealth is provided with contemporary information about the expected delivery schedule for each project (expected major milestone delivery dates including completion) and advise the Commonwealth as soon as practicable of any significant deviations from agreed project plans.</p> <p>Initiatives delivered through this schedule will be targeted at older Australians aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.</p> <p>The Parties agree that information about the outputs delivered under this Schedule and an evaluation of their outcomes will be shared with all states and territories by the Commonwealth. To inform continuous improvement, the Commonwealth will share data and insights with all states and territories in a timely manner and at least annually.</p> <p>The National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) provides that the Commonwealth will not fund a service where the same service, or any part of the same service, is otherwise funded by the Commonwealth. South Australia will ensure that any claim for funding under the NHRA is not funding services, or any part of a service, provided for under this agreement and will maintain appropriate records.</p> <p>The <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i> prohibits the payment of Medicare benefits where other government funding is provided for that service. South Australia will ensure any agreement for the provision of services using funding under this agreement recognises the operation of the <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i>.</p> <p>The Parties acknowledge their respective roles and responsibilities in supporting the provision of health and aged care for older Australians.</p>																								

The Parties agree that South Australia will undertake an evaluation of each initiative funded under this schedule. South Australia will undertake best efforts to align with the nationally agreed evaluation plan (national evaluation plan) agreed for all initiatives funded through the Strengthening Medicare Supporting Older Australians investment.

South Australia will determine the methodology for data collection and scope of any additional evaluation criteria. Evaluation findings will be used to inform future policy and programs. The evaluation will assess effectiveness and efficiency of initiatives across the desired outcomes:

- to reduce avoidable hospital presentations and admissions of older people; and,
- where hospital admission is necessary for older people, to reduce the length of the in-hospital stay, facilitate earlier discharge, and improve their transition out of hospital to other appropriate care.

The Parties agree the Geriatric Outreach Service initiative funding will serve to establish services in three metropolitan Local Health Networks (LHNs) operating 7 days a week and aim to:

- Year 1: 2-day reduction, in comparison to the previous year, in the average length of stay for patients awaiting transition to a residential aged care home memory support unit bed from hospital.
- Year 2: 3-day reduction, in comparison to the previous year, in the average length of stay for patients awaiting transition to a residential aged care home memory support unit bed from hospital.
- Year 3: 3.5-day reduction, in comparison to the previous year, in the average length of stay for patients awaiting transition to a residential aged care home memory support unit bed from hospital.
- Year 4: 3.5-day reduction, in comparison to the previous year, in the average length of stay for patients awaiting transition to a residential aged care home memory support unit bed from hospital.

The Parties agree that in addition to transition care supports the Geriatric Outreach Service initiative will focus on hospital avoidance and aim to:

- Year 1: establish service and baseline data.
- Year 2: 5% increase (on baseline data) in the number of prevented emergency department presentations from residential aged care homes
- Year 3: 10% decrease (on baseline data) the number of prevented emergency department presentations from residential aged care homes
- Year 4: 15% decrease (on baseline data the number of prevented emergency department presentations from residential aged care homes

The Parties agree the Patient Support Initiative funding will serve to deliver equipment, discharge support payments and care supports to residential aged care homes, and other settings, in all metropolitan and regional Local Hospital Networks (LHNs), to address system-wide barriers to hospital discharge through supporting patients to discharge from hospital when clinically appropriate and avoiding preventable hospital presentation. The initiative will aim to achieve:

- Year 1: 20 eligible patients supported with the objective of a 2% reduction in the number of patients delayed from discharge.
- Year 2: 40 eligible patients supported with the objective of a 3% reduction in the number of patients delayed from discharge.
- Year 3: 60 eligible patients supported with the objective of a 4% reduction in the number of patients delayed from discharge.
- Year 4: 60 eligible patients supported with the objective of a 5% reduction in the number of patients delayed from discharge.

Medical equipment grants through the Patient Support Initiative are intended to support the one-off hire or purchase of equipment for patients, with the objective of increasing RACH acceptance rates of patients with specialised care needs and timely discharges into the community. Purchases should not be duplicative of any equipment that should be supplied under Schedule 1 of the *Quality of Care Principles 2014* or any other relevant Commonwealth programs or services.

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
<p>Geriatric Outreach Service <i>Multidisciplinary care teams delivering specialist geriatric assessment, care planning and care to support patients to transition to residential aged care and to prevent unnecessary hospitalisations.</i></p>	<p>Provision of an Implementation Plan for the Commonwealth’s approval for care services in older patients’ places of residence including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the three Local Health Networks (LHNs) through which services will be established including suitability assessments. • Information about the arrangements for the establishment, oversight and evaluation of the services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the services to be provided (specifications); ○ information about patient eligibility criteria; ○ information on potential expansion to regional LHNs; ○ delivery milestones and anticipated phasing across sites, ○ data collection, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting arrangements. • A program logic using the template provided by the Commonwealth. • An evaluation plan outlining the planned evaluation methodology for measuring initiative effectiveness and the agreed minimum evaluation criteria outlined in the national evaluation plan. • Collection of baseline data for initiative and in line with the agreed long stay older patient (LSOP) data indicators. • Detailed budget and expenditure summary including total expenditure incurred to date, and a breakdown of disbursement between program administration and service delivery/commissioning. 	<p>16 December 2024</p>	<p>\$2.000m</p>
	<p>Provision of a Progress Status Report for the Commonwealth’s approval demonstrating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against the implementation plan. • Outcomes of services monitored against the initiative evaluation plan, based on the national evaluation plan. • Commencement of services. • Report relevant data to the Department of Health and Aged Care, including aggregate agreed LSOP data indicators outlined in the national evaluation plan, presented either month-by-month or quarterly. • Initiative risks and issues (including intervention plans where services are not performing) and lessons learned. • Number of patients receiving services monthly within the reporting period. 	<p>14 April 2025 (reporting period: 1/9/24-1/3/25)</p>	<p>\$6.323m</p>

	<p>Provision of an Annual Progress Report with delivery and data metrics for the Commonwealth's approval including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against the implementation plan. • Outcomes of services monitored against the initiative evaluation plan, based on the national evaluation plan. • Report relevant data to the Department of Health and Aged Care, including aggregate agreed LSOP data indicators outlined in the national evaluation plan, presented either month-by-month or quarterly. • Initiative risks and issues (including intervention plans where services are not performing) and lessons learned. 	1 February 2026 (reporting period: 1/1/25-31/12/25),	\$8.545m
		1 February 2027 (reporting period: 1/1/26- 31/12/26),	\$9.134m
		1 February 2028 (reporting period: 1/1/27-31/12/27)	\$8.977m
	<p>Provision of a Final Report for the Commonwealth's approval, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evaluation of the impact of the expansion of care services on long stay older patients against the initiative evaluation plan, based on the minimum evaluation criteria (outlined in the national evaluation plan). • Cumulative data reporting on the agreed data indicators for duration of schedule presented either month-by-month or quarterly. • Outcomes of the initiative, key achievements and challenges, and lessons learned with supporting data where available. 	30 October 2028	Nil
<p>Patient Support Initiative <i>Administration of equipment grants, transition support payments and short-term care assistance to residential aged care homes and other settings, to support the discharge of patients with complex needs.</i></p>	<p>Provision of an Implementation Plan for the Commonwealth's approval for the administration of grants, transition support payments and short-term care to support long stay older patients including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative governance established, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ purchase specifications (including a detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria for equipment and application processes for grants and transition support payments), ○ information about patient eligibility criteria and any needs assessment frameworks (including assessment of priority locations for equipment grants and other supports in South Australia), ○ delivery milestones and phasing ○ governance structure and engagement strategy with the aged care sector and community. • Information about the arrangements for the establishment, oversight and evaluation of short-term care support services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the services to be provided (specifications); 	16 December 2024	\$0.652m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ information about patient eligibility criteria; ○ data collection, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting arrangements. ● A program logic using the template provided by the Commonwealth. ● An evaluation plan outlining the planned evaluation methodology for measuring initiative effectiveness and the agreed minimum evaluation criteria outlined in the national evaluation plan. ● Collection of baseline data for initiative and in line with the agreed LSOP data indicators. ● Detailed budget and expenditure summary including total expenditure incurred to date, and a breakdown of disbursement between program administration, service delivery/commissioning, and grants and payments provided to residential aged care homes. 		
	<p>Provision of a Progress Status Report for the Commonwealth’s approval demonstrating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Progress against the implementation plan. ● Delivery of grants and incentive payments commenced. ● Report relevant data to the Department of Health and Aged Care, including aggregate agreed LSOP data indicators outlined in the national evaluation plan, presented either month-by-month or quarterly. ● Number of patients supported monthly within the reporting period 	<p>14 April 2025 (reporting period: 1/9/24-1/3/25)</p>	<p>\$1.200m</p>
	<p>Provision of an Annual Progress Report with delivery and data metrics for the Commonwealth’s approval including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Progress against the implementation plan. ● Outcomes of services monitored against initiative evaluation plan, based on the national evaluation plan. ● Report relevant data to the Department of Health and Aged Care, including aggregate agreed LSOP data indicators outlined in the national evaluation plan, presented either month-by-month or quarterly. ● Initiative risks and issues (including intervention plans where services are not performing) and lessons learned. 	<p>1 February 2026 (reporting period: 1/1/25-31/12/25),</p>	<p>\$1.897m</p>
		<p>1 February 2027 (reporting period: 1/1/26- 31/12/26),</p>	<p>\$2.126m</p>
		<p>1 February 2028 (reporting period: 1/1/27-31/12/27)</p>	<p>\$2.033m</p>
	<p>Provision of a final evaluation report for the Commonwealth’s approval, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A plan for long term management of eligible patients after initiative funding ceases (including any recommendations and sustainable solutions to be implemented). 	<p>30 October 2028</p>	<p>Nil</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An evaluation of the impact of the initiative on long stay older patients against the initiative evaluation plan, based on the agreed minimum evaluation criteria outlined in the national evaluation plan.• Cumulative data reporting on the agreed data indicators for duration of schedule presented either month-by-month or quarterly.• Outcomes of the initiative, key achievements, and challenges, with supporting data where possible.		
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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

[Day] [Month] 2024

03 12 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by



The Honourable Chris Picton MP
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

[Day] [Month] 2024

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