



Newsletter

Edition 72 | 30th April 2026

Editor's Note

Welcome to the instalment of the HMIInfo Newsletter for the period December 2025 - April 2026. This quarterly update includes links related to the ongoing senate inquiry in the new Aged Care Act, Support at Home and CHSP, and other sector relevant updates.

In addition to sharing with you some research around aging in place and AI, and the HMIInfo team are also proud to be able to tell you that the team was featured in UNSW's recent Creating Impact publication, it reflects the longstanding contribution by our director Professor Catherine Bridge. Our team also celebrates the arrival of a new family member for Dr Sima Alizadeh.

Changes to key Regulations, Grants and Policy related to Home Modifications.

The Aged Care Act (expected to be fully operational by 2027) introduces critical funding uncertainties for Sector Support and Development (SSD) and the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), particularly regarding the transition from block funding to a potential fee-for-service model. While the CHSP program has been extended to 30 June 2027 to provide stability, SSD funding is only guaranteed until 30 June 2026, creating significant risks for local council coordination and sector capability-building.

Under the new Aged Care Act 2024 (started 1 November 2025) and the accompanying Support at Home program, the Australian Government has separated funding for Home Modifications and Assistive Technology (AT) from daily support packages to ensure faster, upfront access to safety improvements. While "home adaptations" and "home modifications" are often used interchangeably, the system focuses on structural and non-structural changes to improve safety and independence.



National Construction Codes (NCC)

Submissions to the next round of updates to the National Construction Codes (NCC) closed on the 6th February 2026. However, you can propose a change at any time in the review cycle through the process outlined on the NCC website. <https://ncc.abcb.gov.au/propose-change>

Changes in Terminology related to Home Modifications



The new Aged Care Act 2024 (started 1 November 2025) and Support at Home program, include a key change to terminology. It replaces **Home Modifications** with a new term **Home Adaptations**. This is of note as while Home Modifications refer to physical, structural changes to a home—such as installing grab rails, ramps, or modifying bathrooms—to increase safety and accessibility, Home Adaptations (sometimes termed "home adjustments" or standard modifications) are generally minor, non-structural adjustments, such as installing lever taps or handheld showers.

Key Changes and Differences

Separate Funding Stream (Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT-HM Scheme)): Home modifications and assistive technology (AT-HM) will be funded separately from your main "Support at Home" budget. This means you do not have to save up funds from your quarterly budget to pay for modifications.

- Upfront Access: The new scheme allows for faster access to modifications up to a certain amount (\$15,000 for high-tier modifications).
- Assessment-Based Tiers: Modifications are assessed based on needs, with funding tiers:
- Definitions:
- "No Worse Off": Those already on a Home Care Package before 12 September 2024 will not be financially disadvantaged by these new, stricter assessment rules.

- Low: Under \$500.
- Medium: Up to \$2,000.
- High: Up to \$15,000.

- Home Modifications (Major/Complex): Structural changes (e.g., widening doors, bathroom renovations, stair lifts).
- Home Adaptations/Standard Modifications: Non-structural, simpler changes (e.g., lever taps, shower rails).

Aged Care Act

There are two ongoing Senate Inquiries announced related to the new Aged Care Act, Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and Support at Home program (SaH). The Senate Community Affairs References Committee (Support at Home Program) met on the 1st of April 2026, with questions on notice from the hearing due to be provided by Wednesday 22nd April 2026. Submissions for the Support at Home Program inquiry close on the 31st July 2026, with a final reporting date of 24th November 2026. Hearings related to the Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program occurred on the 16th February 2026 and 6th February 2026, submissions for it are now closed, with the next reporting date being the 15th April 2026 and the final reporting date the 23rd June 2026.

Transcript from the 1st April Support at Home Program inquiry meeting.

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/commsen/29512/toc_pdf/Community%20Affairs%20References%20Committee_2026_04_01.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%2c%20committees/commsen/29512/0000%22

Transcript from the 16th February Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program inquiry meeting.

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/commsen/29357/toc_pdf/Community%20Affairs%20References%20Committee_2026_02_16.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22committees/commsen/29357/0000%22

Transcript from the 6th February Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program inquiry meeting.

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/commsen/29358/toc_pdf/Community%20Affairs%20References%20Committee_2026_02_06.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22committees/commsen/29358/0000%22

The links below provide a round up of the most recent versions for anyone who is still unsure as to the current state of play.

New Aged Care Act resources for aged care providers

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-act/resources/providers>

About the Aged Care Act 2024 plain language fact sheet

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/about-the-aged-care-act-2024-plain-language-fact-sheet>

Video explaining about new Aged Care Act

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/new-aged-care-act-starts-1-november>

Key dates - New Aged Care Roadmap

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/new-aged-care-act-roadmap?language=en>

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)

2025 Specialised support services (SSS) consultation - Insights and outcomes

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/2025-specialised-support-services-sss-consultation-insights-and-outcomes?language=en>

CHSP Guide to Data Exchange (DEX) Stage 3 Changes

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/chsp-guide-to-data-exchange-dex-stage-3-changes?language=en>

Factsheet on CHSP Data Exchange (DEX) - Implementation Update February 2026

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/chsp-data-exchange-dex-implementation-update-february-2026?language=en>

Commonwealth Home Support Program - Outcomes from the 2024 Wellness and Reablement Report

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/commonwealth-home-support-program-outcomes-from-the-2024-wellness-and-reablement-report?language=en>

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) 2025-27 Manual (from 1 November 2025)

<https://www.health.gov.au/node/56679?language=en>

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) key changes information

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/chsp/reforms?language=en>

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) service catalogue 2025-27

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/commonwealth-home-support-program-chsp-changes-from-1-november-2025-information-for-providers?language=en>

This document shows the types of services provided as part of the CHSP for 2025-27.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/chsp-service-catalogue-2025-27?language=en>

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) 2025-27 extension resources

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/chsp-2025-27-extension-resources?language=en>

Support at Home

Support at Home manual

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/support-at-home-program-manual-a-guide-for-registered-providers?language=en>

New Support at Home pricing guidance

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/new-support-at-home-pricing-guidance?language=en>

Resource How to add a Support at Home Service Item and Complete pricing

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/how-to-add-a-support-at-home-service-item-and-complete-pricing?language=en>

HMIInfo RESOURCES

Creating Impact

https://online.fliphtml5.com/yltyx/glmy/?mc_cid=0f52a5e53e&mc_eid=UNIQID#p=1

Other RESOURCES

Safety and accessibility assessment of a kitchen repurposing design: A gait and task efficiency analysis

Grimaldi, N. S., Luo, Y., Lu, X., Ahrentzen, S., & Hu*, B. (2022). Safety and accessibility assessment of a kitchen repurposing design: A gait and task efficiency analysis. Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting, 66(1), 1756-1760.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1071181322661211>

Accessible Home Modification and Impacts: A Qualitative Study

Galeazzi, S., Bacchus-Misir, F., Cohen, E., Sheppard, C., Tomasella, F., Athanasopoulos, P., Yuzwa, K., Hitzig, S. (2026). Accessible Home Modification and Impacts: A Qualitative Study. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy* March/April 2026, Vol. 80(2), 8002205110.

<https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2026.051139>

Thriving, or just surviving? A grounded theory study of perspectives on value for money in home modifications

Gillett, C., Allen, C., Rolfe, A., Bitner, G., Ownsworth, T., & Gustafsson, L. (2026). Thriving, or just surviving? A grounded theory study of perspectives on value for money in home modifications. *Disability & Society*, 41(1), 191-213. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2025.2494147>

Socio-cultural considerations of home modifications from the perspective of people with spinal cord injury in Iran

Abedi, S., Naghavi, A., Zamani, F., Callaway, L., & Barclay, L. (2026). Socio-cultural considerations of home modifications from the perspective of people with spinal cord injury in Iran. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 21(1), 220-228.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2025.2553027>

Occupational Therapy-Led Home Modifications and Assistive Devices Versus Exercise Programs for Fall Prevention in Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A Systematic Review

Baraa Barakat. Occupational Therapy-Led Home Modifications and Assistive Devices Versus Exercise Programs for Fall Prevention in Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A Systematic Review, 06 January 2026, PREPRINT (Version 1) available at Research Square

[<https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-8503618/v1>]

Housing modifications for heat adaptation

Mshamu, S., von Seidlein, L. & Knudsen, J.B. Housing modifications for heat adaptation. *Nat Med* 32, 414-415 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-025-04155-y>

Enabling Change and Home Participation for an Individual with Intellectual Disability: A Case Study in Complex Occupational Therapy Practice

Yong, A., Harland, A., & Haines, D. (2026). Enabling Change and Home Participation for an Individual with Intellectual Disability: A Case Study in Complex Occupational Therapy Practice. *Occupational Therapy In Health Care*, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07380577.2026.2614420>

A grounded theory based kano model to develop age-friendly housing retrofit strategies for older people in China

Tu, E., & Zhou, Y. (2026). A grounded theory based kano model to develop age-friendly housing retrofit strategies for older people in China. *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*, 25(1), 284-304. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13467581.2025.2455037>

Towards neuroinclusive public open spaces: Evidence and implications from the City of Sydney

Aminpour, F., Whitby, M., Haddad, S., Carnemolla, P., and Sunstrum, F. (2026). Towards neuroinclusive public open spaces: Evidence and implications from the City of Sydney; Sydney: UNSW City Futures Research Centre. Funded by the City of Sydney Ideas and Innovation Grant.

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/content/dam/pdfs/ada/city-futures/2026-towards-neuroinclusive-public-open-spaces-accessible.pdf>

National Disability Data Asset Council's first Annual Report

National Disability Data Asset Council. (2026). *Annual Report 2024-2025* [Report]. Commonwealth of Australia. <https://www.ndda.gov.au/about-ndda/annual-reports/2024-25>

<https://www.ndda.gov.au/about-ndda/annual-reports/2024-25#full-annual-report>

Place Attachment and Aging in Place: Preferences and Disruptions

Clark, W. A. V., Ong ViforJ, R., & Phelps, C. (2024). Place Attachment and Aging in Place: Preferences and Disruptions. *Research on Aging*, 46(3-4), 179-196.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/01640275231209683>

Healthy Aging in Place with the Aid of Smart Technologies: A Systematic Review

Hu, M., Han, S., Ghorbany, S., & Zhang, K. (2024). Healthy Aging in Place with the Aid of Smart Technologies: A Systematic Review. *Encyclopedia*, 4(4), 1918-1932.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/encyclopedia4040125>

Ageing in place, local high streets, and well-being

Brunelli, L., Smith, H., & Woolrych, R. (2025). Ageing in place, local high streets, and well-being. *Cities & Health*, 1-22.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2025.2566571>

EVENTS

Positive Ageing Summit 2026

May 20, 2026 - May 21, 2026 in Adelaide.

This event will have key note speakers, panel discussions, case studies and workshops focusing on how reablement, mental health, nutrition, and innovative ideas for better practice and business growth will shape the future of aged care.

[Event Link](#)

DEX Reporting updated requirements

Jun 4, 2026, from 10 am to 11 am AEST, Online.

An online event for providers of CHSP aged care services, outlining the new requirements Basics of DEX Reporting obligations.

[Link](#)

Any suggestions or feedback you may have on our newsletter would be greatly appreciated, so please feel free to contact us at hminfo@unsw.edu.au. To unsubscribe from future HMinfo newsletters, please click [unsubscribe](#).



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