Better Access to Care – streamlined consumer assessment for aged care

The Government will increase funding for aged care by $5 billion over five years. The Government will design and implement a new framework for streamlined and faster consumer assessments for all aged care services, to be delivered by a new national assessment workforce from 2020. The framework will be developed in consultation with groups across the aged care sector, including aged care service providers, consumers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and existing assessment workforce organisations – Regional Assessment Services and Aged Care Assessment Teams.

Why is this important?

More than 400,000 assessments for home support services, home care packages and residential care are undertaken every year. The current assessment process is complex and inefficient, with some consumers required to undergo multiple assessments to determine their needs.

Traditional services do not focus as well as they could on supporting people’s independence and giving older Australians timely, appropriate assessments for access to all aged care services.

Who will benefit?

This measure will benefit more older Australians who seek assessment each year, particularly for those who experience prolonged wait times in rural and remote areas, and overly complex assessments. By having a quicker assessment, people will be able to gain the care that is right for them sooner.

How much will this cost?

This will cost $14.8 million from 2018–19 to 2019–20.