Strengthening Aged Care – developing an aged care workforce strategy

This measure will establish an aged care industry-led taskforce to explore short, medium and longer term options to boost supply, address demand and improve productivity for the aged care workforce. It will also harness existing employment services to match local job seekers to local jobs and establish regional coordinators to help providers adjust to a rapidly expanding competitive disability and aged care market.

Why is this important?

It is estimated the aged care sector will need to expand its workforce from 366,000 to 980,000 by 2050, to respond to demand from population ageing.

A strategic approach to building workforce capacity is needed given the significant structural changes now under way in aged care.

Developing an Aged Care Workforce Strategy by an aged care industry-led taskforce will explore short, medium and longer term options to boost supply, address demand and improve productivity for the aged care workforce.

The strategy will connect with and complement the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Integrated Market, Sector and Workforce Strategy.

Improving access to a supply of workers is a major factor in sustaining services in regional, rural and outer suburban locations. Specific and well-targeted workforce strategies will make a significant difference.

The proposal uses existing programs and better directs Government funds to assist disability services and aged care service providers to expand their workforces and create job opportunities for local job seekers.

The taskforce will consult widely within the sector, and engage with other sectors, including disability, education and employment. Particular effort will be needed to boost the quality of vocation education and training for the aged care sector.

This proposal is in addition to the Boosting the Local Care Workforce initiative which creates regional and specialist coordinators to assist NDIS and aged care providers to grow their businesses and employ more workers.

Who will benefit?

Aged care consumers, employers peak organisations, Commonwealth-funded aged care providers and other entities funded to support the aged care system will benefit from a more effective and productive aged care workforce.

How much will this cost?

This measure is Budget neutral.