

Media Release

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CCCS welcomes CHSP certainty for older people and regional communities

Coast & Country Community Services (CCCS) has welcomed the Australian Government's decision to retain the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) as a standalone program and extend the program until 30 June 2029.

CHSP supports more than 830,000 older Australians with practical, entry-level services including community transport, Meals on Wheels, shopping assistance and social support, helping people remain independent, connected and living in their own communities for longer.

CCCS CEO James Gould said the announcement provided welcome certainty for older people, their families and community-based organisations delivering essential services.

"This is a very positive decision for older people and particularly for regional communities, where access to transport, services and social connection can be more challenging," Mr Gould said.

"CHSP recognises the value of providing practical support early, helping people maintain their independence and stay connected before they require more intensive aged care services. For CCCS, the greater certainty around CHSP through to 2029 means we can plan ahead with confidence and continue investing in the people, services and systems our communities need."

Mr Gould said greater certainty would also support CCCS to plan for its future workforce and continue investing in its employees and volunteers.

"Our staff and volunteers are at the heart of the services we provide across our communities. This gives us greater confidence to recruit for the future and continue investing in training, development and support so our people have the skills they need to deliver safe, high-quality services and respond to ongoing community need."

The Government has also confirmed that CHSP will remain separate from the Support at Home program, recognising the distinct role block-funded, community-based services play in keeping older Australians well and independent.

Almost 40 per cent of CHSP clients live outside Australia's major cities. CCCS looks forward to contributing to consultation on the longer-term future of CHSP and ensuring the needs of regional communities continue to be recognised.

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