Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP or home support) provides entry-level support for older people to live independently in their homes and communities. This fact sheet presents highlights from the GEN CHSP dashboard, as well as data from other published reports.

People using home support

In 2020–21, almost 825,400 people accessed home support, accounting for three in five people using aged care (Figure 1).

The number of women using home support was nearly double that of men (Figure 2). Approximately 2.1% of people using home support were aged under 65, while over half (52%) were aged 80 years and over.

Characteristics of people using home support

Of people using home support in 2020–21:
- 2.9% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
- 21% were from non-English-speaking countries
- 13% had a carer (family members, friends or neighbours who provide regular care and assistance)
- 61% were in private residences owned by themselves or their family.
- 38% were living alone, and 25% were living with their spouse or partner.

Organisations and services

In 2020–21, more than 1,430 organisations were funded to deliver home support services to people. Around 75% of people using home support received either one or two service types. Slightly less than 6% received five or more service types (Figure 4).
Funding and fees

Home support is a grant-funded program. During 2020–21, the Australian Government provided approximately $2.7 billion for the delivery of home support services. The average grants funding per person in home support was approximately $3,223; however, there is significant variation in funding between people.

The top three services by expenditure were: Domestic Assistance (20% of total home support funding, $536 million), Social Support Group (11%; $291 million), and Nursing (11%; $283 million) (Figure 6).

Some people using home support may contribute to the cost of their care. In 2020–21, Flexible Respite services had the highest average total fees: $2,342 per person over the year (Figure 7). The services with the greatest amount of fees spent overall were: Meals ($173 million), Domestic Assistance ($106 million) and Flexible Respite ($92 million).

Where can I find out more?

GEN Dashboard: Commonwealth Home Support Programme aged care services 2020–21

Suggested citation


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