#### Aged Care - what the new act means for you!

With new rules, and responsibilities, is the rebirthed Aged Care Act a phoenix from the ashes or a wolf in sheep clothing?

It's not something people want to hear but policy is hard. There are always compromises that must be made, because agreement is difficult and budgets are finite. The ongoing debate over aged care is no exception. Over almost 4 years ago, the Royal Commission into Aged care Quality and Safety made 148 recommendations to fix the aged care mess. However, even the commissioners couldn't agree, putting forward slightly differing options on funding reform. While both argued for a levy, they were not in agreement how that would work. Funding is a central problem with growing demand as the population ages. Both Labor and the Coalition rejected a levy as politically unpalatable. It has led the government to propose changes to means testing as the mechanism to free up funds to meet demand and improve service quality. Now that the Aged Care Act has been passed with the support of the 2 major parties, the Federal Government has much to do to bring the changes to life.

## Support at Home...

The highest level package will offerapproximately\$78.000 per year to pay for home care services, allowing older people greater capacity to stay at home if they can. NSA supports this in principle, but raised concern about the absence of strict timeframes for the approval process and questioned how the transition through packages might occur more quickly given the already long waiting times for home care. While the government has set a target to have approvals within 3 years by 2027, this is not a legislated target that has to be met by government. Support at Home will also have a defined list of services capped for items to avoid overcharging by providers. Services will be grouped into 3 categories, clinical, independence, and every day living, to be able for contributions to be applied at different rates for different type of services. Services such as gardening will attract limited subsidies, whilst clinical care services, such as wound care, will be fully subsidised. This is a sensible approach, but there are already concerns that some items such as personal care, will attract copayments above what is reasonable. The devil will be in the detail, and the rules will likely be needed to be revied on an ongoing basis to get things right. That is why NSA has called for the inclusion of a more frequent review of the Act and for the inclusion of a formal mechanism to allow anyone to propose a sensible change of rules.

### Statement of rights......

One of the most important changes to the Aged Care Act is the inclusion of a Statement of Rights. The Statement of Rights includes a positive duty on providers to take all reasonable and proportionate steps to act in a way that are compatible with a person's right as set out in the legislation. The rights are not enforceable by a court or tribunal. Ultimately' it will be up to the new complaints commissioner to assess whether those rights have been breached and what action should be taken if a conflict is not resolved and requires escalation. Recently, a story came to light of 2 people in residential care being separated from another person, as a romance blossomed, because it was dismissed by family as "stupid" at their age. This contravenes the new Act's Statement of Rights, which states 'An individual has a right to exercise choice and make decisions that affect the individual's life .. and take personal risks, including in pursuit of the individual's quality of life, social participation, and intimate and sexual relationships".

#### Complaints Commissioner....

The new Act includes an independent complaints commissioner who will have their work cut out for them balancing the rights and wading through thousands of pages of legislation and rules when assessing if action is required when a complaint is escalated. NSA had hoped the complaints commissioner would be wholly separate from the regulator, the Aged Care Quality and safety Commission. But alas, the position will not. There are many other changes, too many to list here, but rest assured NSA will continue to advocate for you to promote sensible reform to ensure you can get access to the care you need when you need it.

People born in the 50s have lived in 7 decades, 2 centuries & 2 millenniums. We had the best music, the fastest cars. Drive-In Theatres, Milk Bars and Happy Days. And we are not even that old yet, we're just enioving the fruits of our Labour!!!

# **National Seniors** AUSTRALIA

## **Modbury Branch Newsletter**

January 2025

Issue 226



# **Branch Diary**

**Guest speakers** 

20th Jan. Martin Paech (Vocalist, musical Afternoon)

Catalyst Centre Speaker (Seniors information Centre) 17th Feb.

17th. March **Paul Bartlett Antiques Valuations** 

Modbury NSA is sponsored by the Modbury Plaza Hotel

\_Thanks to the Office of Federal Member for Makin, Tony Zappia, in the printing of this Newsletter

## Committee for 2024----2025

Committee for 20.	<u> </u>	
<u>President</u>	Susan Boyle	0410 500 779
Vice President	Piero Fioretti	0423 784 050
Secretary	Bruce Anderson	0449 574 554
Treasurer	Bruce Dommenz	0499 006 437
Assist. Treasurer (Membership)	Alastair Boyle	
Activities Officer	Rosalie Zurek	8264 9681
Guest Speakers (interim)	Rosalie Zurek	0416 010 329
Welfare	Ashley Todd	0447 745197
Extra Member (1)	Lyn Possingham	
Extra Member (2)	Garry Possingham	
Extra Member (3)	Mary Fioretti	
Ex Officio. Public Officer	John Fellows	
Door	Eric Schubert & Mary Fioret	ti
Greeter	Beverly Anderson	
Newsletter	Ray Zurek	

Modbury National Seniors meet every third Monday of the month (4th if Public Holiday) at 1.30pm at Lutheran Homes Inc., 1217 Grand Junction Rd. Hope Valley except November and December. Entrance fee of \$5.00

Postal address: NSA Modbury, PO Box 499, St. Agnes, 5097

We always welcome visitors and potential new members. If after 3 or 4 visits you find that you enjoy coming to our meetings and being part of our group why not become a financial member of National Seniors Australia? Members are able to get involved in discussing and taking part in community issues pertaining to Senior Australians.

You can also take part in social events, hear interesting guest-speakers and meet likeminded members at other branches. Most importantly members can ensure that their voice is heard on issues affecting the over 6 mill. Australians over 50!

Only financial members are covered by NSA Insurance on outings! Financial members will also be given preference when there is a limit on numbers eg. Christmas Lunch, bus trips, etc.

Membershio fees:	joint	single
1year membership	\$49.50	\$80
2 year	\$88	\$143
3 year	\$120	\$180
5 vear	\$220	\$325

Enrolment forms can be found on activities Table or from Treasurer. M/fees can be paid by phone. No Credit card surcharge applies!

Riddle: I have a mane but not a Lion. I wear my shoes to bed. What am I? Interesting fact: Plutomania is the delusion that one is immensely rich!!!

Please wear your nametag at all meetings and Outings!!!!!

## Forthcoming events for 2024---25

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 12 noon, Lunch at Highlander Hotel, 647 N/East Rd. Gilles Plains Seniors lunch \$20 (Main), Salad and Veggie Bar, Raffle

Put your names in Outing folder to attend Outings and Please let Rosalie know if unable to attend!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jan. Birthdays: Pat Guldemeester(15), Alistair Boyle(20), Coral Megaw(22), Brenda Harnden(24), Ron O'Flaherty(31)

Anniversaries: Ray & Rosalie Zurek(1), Mary & Piero Fioretti(19) 45 years!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to All !!!

## **Equal Pay?**

A mechanic was removing the cylinder heads form the motor of a car when he spotted a world famous Macquarie Street heart surgeon in his workshop. The heart surgeon was standing off to the side, waiting for the service manager to come and look at his car. The mechanic shouted across the garage, 'Hello, Doctor, please come over here for a minute.'

The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic stood. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, 'So Doctor, look at this here. I also open hearts, take valves out, grind them, put in new parts and when I finish they will work just like a new one. So how come you get really big money when you and I basically doing the same work? The Doctor smiled, leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, 'Try doing that with the engine running!'



I asked a mechanic for a book how to fix automatic gearboxes. But he only has manuals.

Asked the mechanic why my car was humming. He said it must like the tune .

Popped into the local garage and the mechanic was drinking a cup of tea. He was on a brake.

What fish make the best mechanics? Tunas

I once watched a mechanic fixing a tailpipe. It was exhausting

Did you hear about the mechanic that got addicted to brake fluid. He said he could stop anytime he wanted to