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MEDIA RELEASE

CHSP Alliance Responds to Senate Inquiry Report on CHSP

The CHSP Alliance welcomes the release of the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry report into the transition of Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) into the Support at Home (SaH) Program.

The Senate Committee heard compelling evidence that the new Support at Home Program is not fit for primary aged care services such as those that CHSP provides. CHSP services are delivered to around 840,000 older people via 1,340 CHSP provider organisations. This supports the conclusion of the Auditor-General's report on CHSP released last month.

Professor Kathy Eagar AM, Alliance Co-Convenor said, "We are delighted the Senate Committee has recommended unanimously that CHSP should be retained as a separate block-funded program and not be transitioned into the Support at Home Program."

"The CHSP Alliance strongly endorses this sensible conclusion by Senators from across all parties."

Paul Sadler, Alliance Co-Convenor and Chair of Meals on Wheels Australia, said, "Importantly, the Committee recommended that a cost-benefit analysis of CHSP be conducted, including looking at the level of funding needed to meet current and future demand."

"We now call on the Government to publicly announce its intention to not proceed with the amalgamation and to instead engage in a co-design process as recommended by the Committee. The CHSP Alliance welcomes the opportunity to partner with Government in designing the next stage in the life of CHSP as the national primary aged care program."

CHSP Alliance

The CHSP Alliance was established by 40 Foundation Member organisations and individuals representing consumers, unions, health professionals, home support providers and researchers and now has more than 200 members. More information about the Alliance, including our position statements, is available at <https://chspalliance.org.au>.

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