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MEDIA RELEASE

CHSP Alliance Calls for No Wrong Door to Primary Aged Care

Following on from the Government's welcome decision to retain the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) last month, the CHSP Alliance is moving on to consider how the primary tier of the aged care system should work in the future.

In a new position statement titled *No Wrong Door to Primary Aged Care*, the Alliance argues that the current aged care assessment system is not working for CHSP and that primary aged care requires a different approach that is streamlined and more efficient.

Paul Sadler, Alliance Co-Convenor and Chair of Meals on Wheels Australia, said, "The goal is to benefit both potential service users and taxpayers by significantly reducing waiting lists and times to access preventative and early intervention CHSP services."

"A significant drop in the numbers of applicants requiring assessment via My Aged Care as we propose in this position statement would also reduce waiting times for more complex and costly services provided through Support at Home (SaH) and Residential Care Services."

Professor Kathy Eagar AM, Alliance Co-Convenor said, "Rather than channelling every older person through one My Aged Care gateway, we advocate for access to CHSP to be based on 'no wrong door', a policy approach that supports multiple trusted referral points to make eligibility decisions and referrals and to handle sensitive health information."

She added, "Development of guidelines and implementation of a new national policy on social prescribing of CHSP is an ambitious goal that the Alliance stands ready to engage in. Our view is that it is best progressed incrementally, starting with those who already have PBS pharmaceutical prescribing rights – GPs, geriatricians and rehabilitation physicians and clinical nurse practitioners."

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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