

07/11/2023

A Stronger, More Diverse and Independent Community Sector

Submission:

Meals on Wheels NSW has opted to provide this brief written submission in response to the Issues Paper, which mainly centres around **Area of Focus 2: Providing grants that reflect the real cost of delivering quality services.**

Meals on Wheels NSW stands with the Support at Home Alliance in advocating for an adequate and flexible funding model to be adopted in the Aged Care Reforms. The Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) model, developed by Professor Kathy Eagar and which has been recently adopted for Residential Aged Care, provides base tariff funding for administrative and overhead costs, as well as an activity-based individual care payment. Rising operational costs would be regularly addressed and updated by the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority, the body that the AN-ACC model engages to provide costings.

Meals on Wheels NSW commissioned a Viability Study into how the AN-ACC model could be applied to Meals on Wheels. To avoid repetition, the documents linked below form part of this submission.

██████████ submission Dec 2022

[https://nswmealsonwheels.org.au/NswMealsOnWheels/media/Members/Reference%20Room/Legislation/Support-At-Home-Alliance-In-Home-Aged-Care-submission December-2022.pdf](https://nswmealsonwheels.org.au/NswMealsOnWheels/media/Members/Reference%20Room/Legislation/Support-At-Home-Alliance-In-Home-Aged-Care-submission%20December-2022.pdf)

Following a successful ‘Proof of Concept’ that the AN-ACC model would work for Community Transport, Meals on Wheels NSW commissioned their own Proof of Concept with the assistance of Prof. Kathy Eagar, where the question, “*Does the AN-ACC classification model, originally developed for residential aged care, make sense when applied to Meals on Wheels services?*” was answered with a resounding ‘Yes’ followed by the development of hypothetical classes and activities for testing and further refinement by an expert panel of participants from Community based Meals on Wheels services from around the country. Final design decision is on pages 10 and 11 of the above submission.

“In relation to implementation costs and complexity, this model is certainly no more costly or complex than the current Support at Home proposal. It is likely to be significantly cheaper and administratively more efficient. This is because the cost of implementing the AN-ACC model is substantially cheaper than implementing individualised funding for more than a million people per annum. On that note, it is important to distinguish between conceptual and administrative complexity. The Support at Home proposal is conceptually simple but administratively complex. The AN-ACC model is conceptually more complex but administratively much simpler.” Prof. Kathy Eagar.

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More
than just
a meal

It should also be noted that the AN-ACC model would also address **Area of Focus 3: Providing longer grant agreement terms.** Meals on Wheels providers have been receiving 12-month grant funding extensions for some time now, making it challenging to plan ahead, with no assurance of future funding destabilising many smaller community-based organisations. Guaranteed funding through the AN-ACC model would not only assist with high quality service delivery, but also encourage innovation, as services would be able to plan ahead with confidence and have the flexibility to test innovative solutions to challenges.

Area of Focus 5: Partnering with trusted community organisations with strong local links. Meals on Wheels has been serving local communities for 70 years, and is a trusted and valued organisation throughout Australia with strong local links. The AN-ACC model addresses place-based funding anomalies, and duplicative funding in some areas.

