



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

COMMUNITY NURSING NEWSLETTER No. 52

February 2025



This **Newsletter** is issued to provide updates to DVA contracted Community Nursing providers.

Updated Notes for Community Nursing Providers

The Notes for Community Nursing Providers (the Notes) have been reviewed and updated, with the updated version taking effect from March 2025.



Updates to the Notes include:

- Reference to DVA legislation and Treatment Principles (*Section 1*)
- Clarification on Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) eligibility under the Veteran White Card (*Section 3.1.2*)
- Updates to competencies and training information (*Section 4.5*), including:
 - Amendment to First Aid and Basic Life Support certification and renewal requirements
 - Addition of manual handling certification requirements
- Assessment tool requirements as part of the comprehensive assessment (*Section 5.1*)
- Clarification of progress note requirements as part of the care plan (*Section 5.2.2*)
- Clarification of requirements for medication management and medication assistance (*Sections 6.3.2.2 and 6.4.3*)
- Addition of fraud prevention controls as part of provider system requirements (*Section 7.14*)
- Further alignment to the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards (*Section 10*)
- A clearer process for urgent and interim approval requests under the Exceptional Case process (*Attachment A*)
- Clarification on the rules for claiming nursing consumables items (*Attachment D*)
- Updates to claiming rules for the two Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program items for Community Nursing providers, to restrict claiming with assessment items (*Attachment E, Section 1.2.8*)
- Minor amendments made to readability and flow of information.

The updated version of the Notes is attached, and will be available on the [DVA website](#) prior to the effective date.

Overnight Care - Fee Item changes

As part of a review of the scope and purpose of delivering overnight care in the Notes, four overnight care item numbers will be removed from the Schedule of Fees effective 1 March 2025.



The item numbers (NS31, NS38, NT47 and NT54) for overnight care up to 6 hours will be closed, with the last date these items can be claimed being 28 February 2025. This is to reflect the intent of overnight care being to provide clinically required care to clients throughout the night and the client's period of sleep.

An updated version of the Schedule of Fees will be made available on the [DVA website](#) prior to the changes taking effect.

Historical Leave Liabilities – Fair Work Commission Aged Care Work Value Case

In September 2024, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) made a decision under Stage 3 of the [Aged Care Work Value Case](#) to further increase award wage increases for many aged care workers. As part of the Australian Government's commitment to fund the increases following the FWC's Stage 3 decision, the fees for personal care delivered under the Veterans' Home Care (VHC) and Community Nursing programs increased from 1 January 2025.

In addition, \$389,000 in funding has been made available for providers of Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) VHC and Community Nursing services to fund historical leave liabilities for in scope employees as a result of the FWC's decision.

About the funding

You can apply for historical leave liability funding from DVA directly if you:

- **are a DVA-only** provider of Community Nursing and/or VHC services
- **are not an aged care provider** (i.e. you are not registered to provide aged care programs including Residential Aged Care, Home Care Packages Program, Commonwealth Home Support Programme etc.) **AND**
- **you have employee/s impacted** by the FWC's Stage 3 decision.

This funding opportunity is to fund providers for 50 percent of the cost associated with paying higher leave entitlements for aged care workers that have had their wages increased from 1 January 2025 as a result of the FWC's decision. Funding can only be claimed to 'top up' relevant leave entitlements that are directly attributable to the FWC's Stage 3 decision of a 1.464 percent wage increase. This includes payment of leave entitlements when an employee resigns.

This application process is only valid for increases as part of the FWC's Aged Care Work Value Case for in scope personal care workers. The process to apply for historical leave liability funding following the decision on the aged care nurses' determination will be managed separately, and providers will be notified of this process as soon as it is available.

Further information on the aged care wage increase can be found on the [Department of Health and Aged Care's](#) website.

How to apply

To apply for funding from DVA you will need to complete the **Provider Application Form** and submit this along with supporting documentation to DVA.Sustainability.Payments@dva.gov.au.

Applications close on 31 March 2025.

Please refer to the attached Aged Care Wages – Historical Leave Liability Funding documents:

- Provider Application Process and Guidelines - Personal Care - February 2025
- Provider FAQs - Personal Care - February 2025
- Provider Application Form - Personal Care - February 2025

If you have any questions regarding the application and funding process, please email DVA.Sustainability.Payments@dva.gov.au.

Sustainability Payments

Quarter 3 Sustainability Payment email notifications were sent to eligible service providers in mid-January 2025.

DVA encourages you to submit your invoice as soon as possible to ensure timely receipt of your Sustainability Payment. If you are yet to submit an invoice for eligible payments for Quarter 1 (April-June 2024), Quarter 2 (July-September 2024) or Quarter 3 (October-December 2024), please submit invoices at the earliest opportunity.

Please check your email inbox and/or junk mail to make sure you don't miss out on the incoming email.

To minimise client count discrepancies, it is ***important that you lodge your claims each month***.

The DVA website [Sustainability Payments for Community Nursing and Veterans' Home Care providers | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) provides extensive information for service providers to easily access important information and frequently asked questions about Sustainability Payments.

Invoices and Queries regarding Sustainability Payments should be sent to dva.sustainability.payments@dva.gov.au

Changes to contact details or contract management queries should be sent to the Contract Management Team: community.nursing.contracts@dva.gov.au