

1 April 2020

## **Retention bonus for residential aged care and home care workers – further information**

Further to the Department of Health's [31 March 2020 daily COVID-19 update](#), ACSA sought clarification from the Department.

Our questions and the Department's responses are:

### **Why is there \$600 for home care when there is \$800 for residential aged care?**

Government recognises the important work of direct and personal support staff across the residential and home care sectors. Residential care has experienced a particular workforce challenge since the COVID-19 crisis commenced which is reflected in the higher amounts for residential care. This reflects the decision of Government.

### **Why is it only being provided to direct care workers? What about other staff needed to provide aged care (e.g. kitchen staff, cleaners, case coordinators/managers)**

The focus of this measure is on the retention of direct care workers recognising the particular role they play in caring for individuals.

### **Is it going to be paid for sub-contractors (for example who provide home care services)?**

Yes

### **Is the payment a tax-free payment to the worker? Is the Government going to introduce legislation to make it a tax-free payment?**

The payment is after tax. The tax treatment will be resolved as part of finalising payment delivery mechanisms, including whether legislation is required.

### **Does it apply to Commonwealth Home Support Program workers? We assume so but language needs to be clearer.**

As clarified in the Q&As circulated this morning it is home care only, in line with the decision of Government.

### **How do providers get the payments? Do they apply? If so how? How and when will the payments be made?**

Details of payment arrangements will be advised in due course. There are a range of options and government is exploring the best mechanism to deliver the funding in the most efficient manner.