



parkinson's
australia

National Advocacy • Connection • Awareness

SECOND SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE CONSULTATION ON THE NEW AGED CARE ACT

MARCH 2024

Additional Summary

Parkinson's Australia has also submitted with a consortium of peak organisations and individuals, whose members and networks represent over 700,000 people living with a diverse range of chronic conditions and disabilities, all of whom have a vested interest in strengthening the aged care system in Australia.

In addition to the above and our own submission sent in February, Parkinson's Australia urges the Australian Government to ensure that the new Aged Care Act includes a **Progressive Neurological Pathway**.

For those ageing with a progressive neurological condition, we recommend that the Aged Care Bill contain a pathway that better meets the needs of those living with these conditions that includes specific consideration of eligibility, assessment, timeliness of access and a level of funding required for multidisciplinary care for complex needs.

The pathway would set out specific requirements such as for the clinical assessor workforce, using detailed evidence-based guidance to identify needs, an enhanced funding classification (compared to frail aged) and expedited review pathways.

Recommendations

In response to these issues and concerns, Parkinson's Australia urges the Australian Government to ensure that the new Aged Care Act clearly makes certain that:

- The pre-assessment process identifies chronic health conditions and disability type supported by documentation.
- The pre-assessment process identifies people from special needs groups.
- **The formal assessment process reflects pre-assessment data collection with services recommended, including the establishment of a progressive neurological pathway.**
- People are assessed as individuals by trained health professionals with expertise in aged care and disability needs who are able to identify individual supports that can be tailored to address an older person's individual needs, including the flexibility to support people to manage episodic and progressive conditions.
- The decisions made by computer programs must not be taken as a final decision made by the system governor.
- Information and analysis provided by computer programs is used to assist assessors to make their recommendations provided the tool itself is subject to governance by experts in the field of aged care, disability, special needs groups and systems management.
- The use of computer programs is subject to expert oversight, regulatory safeguards, audits and reporting.

Parkinson's Facts

Parkinson's is the second-most common neurological condition in the world, but remains one of the least understood.



**52% are
male**



**48% are
female**



**Cost to economy
>\$10 billion p/a**

