

31 October 2024

The Department of Health and Aged Care

[Consultation | Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

RE: NEW AGED CARE RULES – RELEASE 1 – SERVICE LIST – CONSULTATION DRAFT

Dear Department of Health and Aged Care Consultation Team

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the New Aged Care Act Rules – Release 1 – Service list - Consultation Draft.

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) is the nation's leading voice on exercise and sports science. We govern and represent degree-qualified exercise professionals who support Australians to reach their health and performance goals. ESSA sets the professional standard for approximately 10,000 accredited exercise physiologists, exercise scientists, sports scientists and high performance managers.

Exercise physiology is a crucial component of the allied health workforce and plays a significant role in improving the health and wellbeing of older Australians through the prevention and management of chronic diseases, injuries, and falls prevention using exercise and lifestyle interventions. Exercise physiology and exercise science are imperative in aged care, particularly in preventative care and reablement support. Prioritising wellness and reablement reduces the burden of disability and chronic conditions on health and aged care services. With cost effective, evidence-based supports, Accredited Exercise Physiologists (AEPs) and Accredited Exercise Scientists (AES) are well positioned to support this approach.

In order for allied health services to continue to be a fundamental element of the aged care system, ESSA is very supportive of the recognition of exercise physiology under Chapter 1, Part 4, Division 2 – Home support service types, Section 32 – Allied health and therapy, Services in the service type allied health and therapy, item 10, Exercise Physiology.

However, ESSA notes that further information is required on how pricing will be determined so that it is transparent and equitable, and that consistent data sources are used to determine appropriate fees for services.

ESSA urges continued consultation with peak bodies such as Allied Health Professionals Australia (AHPA), and ESSA, so that all decisions that impact allied health supports are **developed consistently, with safety and quality healthcare at the forefront of all decisions, prior to implementation of the legislation.**

ESSA looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of Health and Aged Care through the implementation of these key reforms to support older Australian's equitable access to fundamental health and wellness outcomes.

Please contact ESSA Policy & Advocacy Advisor, Cassandra Koutouridis on 07 3171 9694 or cassandra.koutouridis@essa.org.au for further information or comments.

Yours sincerely



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