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MEDIA RELEASE

Changing of the baton for delivery of Alexandrina's aged-care services 27 July 2020

Alexandrina Council currently receives funding from the Federal Government for the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). This service provides support to eligible residents including minor home modifications, home maintenance/gardening, transport, social support and domestic assistance in the Strathalbyn area.

The Federal Government's 'Aged Care Reforms' are changing the way aged care will be funded, structured and managed into the future.

Alexandrina Council has reviewed the reform agenda and examined the potential impacts of the Federal Government changes so as to determine the best way forward for the community we represent.

As a result, Council's Commonwealth Home Support Program services will conclude on 30 June 2021 and transition to new providers as confirmed by the Department of Health. All our Community Connect services will continue to be available until this date, with social support services continuing from 1 July 2021, albeit in a revised format.

Council has commenced a substantial transition plan to ensure relevant service providers are active in the region and that clients are carefully, and sensitively, moved to alternate providers, while assessing any gaps that may occur.

Chief Executive Officer, Glenn Rappensberg said services available to the Alexandrina region would not be reduced.

"It is important to note that this transition will not result in any net loss of service provision however what will change will be the provider.

“Our aged and disability services provide significant support to our community and we know the service is highly valued. There have, however, been a number of reforms in the aged and disability service sector.

“We believe that the Federal Government’s new funding model is better suited to service providers independent of Local Government.

“Council has a genuine interest in ensuring that high-quality and reliable providers are appointed. Council’s strategic planning and advocacy roles in the aged and disability sector will continue to ensure the community has access to quality services in the years to come,” Mr Rappensberg said.

Mayor Keith Parkes commented that Council will now focus on alternate ways to support and respond to our community before the changes are rolled-out in July 2021.

“There has been significant changes to sector funding over many years, and Council will play a crucial role in re-scoping community need and ensuring service providers meet that need. We recognise the value of these services to our growing community and Council will continue to advocate for timely access to main stream social services for all of our community into the future,” he said

Community members requiring further information or support can contact Council’s Community Connect Team on 8555 7000. Frequently asked questions and further information is available on Council’s website at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/transition