



## **Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck**

Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians

Minister for Youth and Sport

24 March 2020

Dear Aged Care Workers,

Australia's aged care sector is facing an unprecedented emergency.

The spread of COVID-19 impacts everybody, but particularly Senior Australians. It is vital we support those working in aged care to keep Senior Australians across every community healthy and supported during this difficult time. Thank you for everything you are doing. You are doing an exceptional job in challenging circumstances.

### **Retention Bonus for Workers**

On Friday, the Australian Government announced \$444.6 million in additional support to help the sector stay strong, including a retention bonus for aged care workers.

As part of this announcement:

- Full-time direct care workers in residential care facilities will receive a payment of up to \$800 after tax per quarter, paid for two quarters.
- Full-time home care workers will receive payments of up to \$600 after tax per quarter, paid for two quarters.
- Part-time direct care workers receive a pro-rata payment for the amount of time you work. For example, if you work two days a week, you'll receive 40 per cent of the payment.
- Payments will be made via your employer with the first payment expected in June (for the preceding quarter). The second payment will be paid in September.

### **Infection Control**

On the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), the Government has put in place restrictions on access to facilities to help stop the spread of COVID-19 amongst older Australians and workers.

Your personal wellbeing is incredibly important and we want to ensure you have the training and resources needed to do your job safely.

This includes specific infection control training, access to the right Personal Protective Equipment if needed, and support to stay home if you are feeling unwell.

I am delighted to see that over 25,000 aged care workers have undertaken infection control training, further modules are being developed and will be released regularly. I encourage you to complete the new modules and keep up to date as developments occur.

On behalf of all Australians, we thank you for the care you provide. Your work is critical to the wellbeing of so many senior Australians and our success in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Colbeck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R'. Below the signature is a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right side.

**Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck**  
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians