

1) What is the current level of funding for carer supports and services over the last financial year? Please provide an annual breakdown by service/support and funding allocation?

The following table shows funding for carer services 2017-18 to 2020-21.

Current carer funding decreases over time from \$168.87 million to \$94.86 million in 2020-21. This decrease is due to funding for three programs transitioning to the NDIS.

The decision to transition funding from the Young Carers Respite and Information Service, Mental Health Respite: Carer Support, and Respite Support for Carers of Young People with a Severe or Profound Disability programs was made by the then Government in the 2013-14 Budget.

With the additional funding for the Integrated Carer Support Service, the overall funding for DSS funded carer services will reach around \$125 million by 2023-24.

Program Name	Budget 2017-18 \$m	Budget 2018-19 \$m	Budget 2019-20 \$m	Budget 2020-21 \$m
Young Carer Bursary	\$1.235	\$0	\$0	\$0
Consumer Directed Respite Care	\$2.641	\$2.686	\$2.686	\$2.686
Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centres	\$62.366	\$63.426	\$63.426	\$63.426
National Carer Counselling Program	\$5.054	\$5.140	\$5.140	\$5.140
Carer Information & Support Services	\$4.094	\$4.164	\$4.164	\$4.164
Dementia Education and Training for Carers (DETC)	\$1.070	\$1.070	\$1.070	\$1.070
Counselling Support, Information & Advocacy: Carer Support (CSIA:CS)	\$10.498	\$10.676	\$10.676	\$10.676
Young Carers - Direct Respite & Educational Support*	\$9.3	\$7.3	\$6.7	TBC***
Respite Support for Carers of Young People with a Severe or Profound Disability**	\$5.703	\$2.719	\$0	\$0
Mental Health Respite: Carer Support**	\$55.4	\$40.2	\$0	\$0
MyTime****	\$3.910	\$3.961	\$4.013	\$0
Carer Gateway*****	\$7.60	\$7.70	\$7.70	\$7.70
Sub total: current carer service funding sub total	\$168.87	\$149.04	\$105.58	\$94.86
Integrated Carer Support Service – additional funding	\$7.2	\$18.7	\$39.5	\$20.2
Total: carer support funding	\$176.07	\$167.74	\$145.08	\$115.06

*Funding for direct respite services is transitioning to the NDIS by 30 June 2019.

**Funding is transitioning to the NDIS by 30 June 2019.

*** Currently resources are being negotiated in the Department in regards to what elements are being transitioned to the NDIS.

****MyTime is funded under Children and Parenting Support, a sub-activity under the Families and Children Activity.

*****Budget allocation includes funding for Carer Gateway operation and some detailed design work on key elements of the proposed service delivery.

2) What is the funding allocation for stage 1 i.e. digital services?

Funding is \$18.8m over four years (2017/18 to 2020/21).

3) Of that, how much is for departmental administration and how much for a communications strategy?

The \$18.8m over four years (2017/18 to 2020/21) is for digital services. It does not include any departmental administration or communication funding.

4) Will it be compulsory for all carers to be involved in the evaluation activities?

No.

5) For the digital counselling, if someone is placed in the prioritisation service and is assessed as being at risk of self or harm to others, what is the process?

The Department will work closely with the successful provider to design both the prioritisation and at risk processes.

6) What is the process being undertaken to determine the number and location of RDPs?

The Department has run a public consultation with the sector on the *Integrated Carer Support Service: Regional Delivery Model*. The consultation ran from 9 April to 11 May 2018.

Feedback from the consultation process will inform advice on the final number and location of the Regional Delivery Partners for decision by the Australian Government.

7) What is the number of carers by total number of people that will be affected by the means testing of the carer's allowance?

The threshold of \$250,000 will affect approximately one per cent (1%) of Carer Allowance and Carer Allowance (child) Health Care Card Only recipients.

Around 6,500 Carer Allowance recipients will be affected and around 400 Carer Allowance (child) Health Care Card Only recipients.

8) Is there a total cap on funding per carer across all available services? If yes, please can you provide this figure?

There is no total cap on funding per carer.

9) What is the process to select a national communications provider?

At this point in time, there is no intention to select a national communications provider. If a national communications provider needs to be selected, they will be selected under the requirements of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

10) Is there an estimate of savings moving from the current carer support and services funded by the department to the new ICSS service model? If so, please provide the estimate.

The move to the new model is not intended to yield savings over current expenditure. Currently \$168.87 million (2017-18) is allocated to Departmental funded carer services. Three carer programs are transitioning to the NDIS, with the associated funding transferring with them. Once these programs have transitioned, the remaining funding, around \$94.86 million per year, will continue to be allocated to Departmental funded carer services.

Once the new Integrated Carer Support Service is fully operational, the amount of funding allocated for Departmental funded carer services will be approximately \$125 million per year from 2023-24 onwards.

11) Can you provide a breakdown of funding across the 9 services described in the ICSS attachment A (RFT0010107)? Are any of these services capped, if so which ones and please provide their funding cap level? What is total funding for the ICSS?

The total funding for the ICSS is provided below:

Item	Total 2017/18 – 2020/21
Additional investment in carer services	\$85.6m
Current sector funding transitioning to ICSS from September 2019	\$161.3m
Total funding for ICSS	\$246.9m

The funding broken down across the nine services provided in Attachment A to the RFT is:

Service	Total 2017/18 – 2020/21
Carer Pathway Navigator (understand carer needs and determine services)	\$39.3m
Digital Counselling	\$8.6m
In-person counselling	\$8.5m
Carer Online Resources	\$2.9m
Coaching – online	\$3.4m
Coaching – in-person	\$7.4m
Online Peer Support	\$3.9m
In-person Peer Support	\$5.7m
Carer Directed Support	\$13.8m
Emergency Respite	\$89.4m
Total	\$182.9m

The costs above are reflective of the services only and do not include funding of \$64m over the same period which includes implementation, establishment, Young Carer Bursaries and education funding.

12) Can you please provide a breakdown in terms of total funding allocated for online services versus in person services?

Service	Total 2017/18 – 2020/21
In-Person services	\$164.1m
Online Services	\$18.8m
Total	\$182.9m

In-person services include carer pathway navigator, in-person counselling, in-person coaching, in-person peer support, carer directed support and emergency respite.

Online services include digital counselling, carer online resources, online coaching and online peer support.

13) How will mental health carers be treated across these services and will there be any points of distinction between general carers and mental health carers?

The intake and needs assessment process managed by the Regional Delivery Partners will determine the most appropriate services for carers based on their particular circumstances.

14) Is there a specific allocation or breakdown of funding for regional (as opposed to metro) service providers?

Breakdown of funding is still being determined and will depend on the final number of Regional Delivery Partner service areas.

15) What services are available to the families of carers?

Carer support services are to support all carers, as defined by the *Carer Recognition Act 2010*. If family members have a caring role they may be eligible for carer services through the ICSS.

16) Given that there are “multiple entry points” into the various services, to what degree do carers have a say in the services they receive?

Carers will be actively involved in the services they receive.

17) How much is the current carer gateway funding? How many carers are currently supported by this?

Funding for the Carer Gateway service for 2017-18 is \$6.97m.

During 2016-17, 345,004 people accessed Carer Gateway via calling Carer Gateway, requesting a call back, visiting the website, using a web form or engaging with the Carer Gateway through Facebook.

18) What relationship will the new online services have with the existing carer gateway?

Carers will be able to access these services through links on the Carer Gateway Website.

19) How much funding will be allocated towards carer advocacy?

Advocacy is not a specific service under the ICSS.

20) Will there be a review or appeals process embedded in the ICSS?

Review/appeals processes are not yet determined.