



# Meals on Wheels Victoria

7 August 2023

Dear Victorian MP/ Senator,

I am writing to you on behalf of Meals on Wheels Victoria (MOWV) and our members.

Recently it was announced that Meals on Wheels Queensland would receive funding to run the Meals on Wheels Service for Ballarat and Meals on Wheels Newcastle (NSW) would receive funding to run the Meals on Wheels Service for Whitehorse. The first MOWV Victoria knew of this was from the below media release.

<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-anika-wells-mp/media/delivering-over-150000-meals-to-older-victorians-living-at-home>

These two interstate services will be receiving \$13 per unit under the CHSP program for provision of a meal ( a unit). The majority of Victorian MOW Services currently receive just \$8.25 per unit. This is a major disparity. Minister Butler and the Department of Health and Aged Care claim the \$13 per unit includes money for infrastructure and set up costs ( see attached answers to recent Questions on Notice at Senate Estimates), however there is no information forthcoming about how \$13 per unit was arrived at. There are several other providers who have had set up and infrastructure costs who have not been funded at \$13 per unit.

Further to this, no open tender process was undertaken in the awarding of this funding to two interstate services, despite there being current CHSP services in Victoria who could have tendered for and provided this service.

Victoria already has many Councils who have exited from providing Meals on Wheels Service, and it is feared this disparity will lead to more Councils exiting provision of Meals on Wheels.

I would also like to bring to your attention the awarding of \$7.05 million contract over two years to consultants – Miles Morgan Australia- for a *“Business Transition Project for Meals on Wheels Australia”*. <https://www.tenders.gov.au/Cn/Show/94e8f9c2-8bb6-4a91-b873-3a02fb493db4>

Currently these consultants are only engaging with Meals on Wheels Queensland and have refused to engage with Meals on Wheels Australia, Meals on Wheels Victoria and the other state Peak Bodies.

This is a significant amount of taxpayers' money to only engage with one State, and has also been shrouded in secrecy. Given the recent issues that have presented themselves around use of consultants in the federal public service, this should be of concern to you as an elected representative.

I have attached a recent report that MOWV authored that shows the current risks to Meals on Wheels in this state. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you about the above issues and the issues outlined in the report.

Alina Tooley  
State Manager  
MOWV