



The Hon Sam Rae MP
Minister for Aged Care and Seniors

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE MINISTER FOR AGED CARE AND SENIORS

I am honoured to be your new federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors.

I have spent my first three weeks as your Minister listening to older people, your families and carers, aged care providers, workers and others in the sector who have generously shared their views and feedback with me. I am privileged to be taking on an immensely important job.

The Australian Government is working to deliver once-in-a-generation reforms to build a high-quality, respectful and sustainable aged care system.

In order to deliver on the intent of these reforms and following careful consideration, the government has decided to briefly defer the start of the new Aged Care Act from 1 July 2025 to 1 November 2025.

The new Act is changing aged care laws to put the rights of older people first. It includes a Statement of Rights and a Statement of Principles to guide how providers and workers must behave and make decisions.

This extra time will allow participants to better understand the changes, so you can prepare and make informed decisions. Importantly, you will continue to receive the safe, quality care you deserve.

I am committed to building on the work we have done so far to improve aged care in Australia. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's number one recommendation was to deliver a new Act that puts you at the centre of your aged care, and this is what we are doing.

We are further committed to delivering the new Act and its benefits to you as soon as possible. However, a pause is needed to allow for a smoother implementation of the new Act and with the Support at Home program.

You deserve these improvements; it is as important to me to get them right as it is to you. Thank you for your patience and continuing to work with us on these changes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Rae', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sam Rae

4 June 2025