

Single site funding support for COVID-19 impacted areas in NSW and Queensland.

Updated 10/08/21

Single site workforce arrangements and funding support has been activated for the following areas Local Government Areas in:

NSW:

- Armidale Regional LGA
- Regional Council of Tamworth
- Byron Shire
- Richmond Valley
- Ballina Shire
- Lismore

Queensland:

- Regional Council of Cairns
- Shire of Yarrabah

Given recent COVID-19 cases in regional NSW and Far North Queensland and following the [COVID-19 far north Queensland hotspot declaration](#) by the Australian Government Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly, workers at residential aged care facilities in impacted areas are asked to limit their work to a single facility to reduce the risk of transmission and protect workers and residents.

Australian Government grant funding is now available to support implementation of these arrangements in the above areas for an initial two-week period from **8 August to 23 August 2021**. Based on advice from the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, and in line with advice from NSW and Queensland governments, these arrangements are limited to residential aged care providers in the specified areas in Queensland (as defined on the Department of Health's [website](#)). This may be expanded if required.

Providers in these areas are asked to adjust their rosters and ensure staff are only working at one residential aged care facility within this region during this time. Workers are encouraged to speak with their primary employer and look to work all shifts during this period with the residential aged care provider where they were working the most hours prior to the outbreak.

To the greatest extent possible, the employer should seek to match any hours no longer being worked with a secondary employer and continue to meet take home pay during the ordinary pay cycle to ensure the worker is not financially disadvantaged. It is important workers also retain the security of any secondary employment.

Facilities should also be prepared a line listing of all staff and residents, including date of birth and vaccination status in the event this is required in an outbreak scenario. Ensuring adequate staff members are suitably trained in administrative processes, including rostering and cohorting staff, is also essential.

Where this results in additional workforce expenses, providers are able to seek reimbursement from the Australian Government through the [Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19](#) (SACWIC) Grant. The SACWIC grant opportunity remains open until 31 December 2021.

In addition to funding support, a reminder that providers can also access guidance on practical implementation of single site arrangements, including employee relations expertise, through the [Guiding Principles Support Hub](#) website or hotline on **1800 491 793**.

South East Queensland Transition out.

On 8 August 2021, the Queensland Government announced restrictions will be eased in **South East Queensland**. The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly, has subsequently [lifted the declaration](#) across South East Queensland areas as a hotspot.

Although the hotspot declaration is lifted, single site workforce arrangements will remain in place until **14 August 2021** as [previously announced](#). Public health measures will remain as per the [Queensland Health advice](#), such as the wearing of masks, to help prevent ongoing community transmission.

Please visit [Restrictions for Locked Down Areas - Cairns and Yarrabah](#) for further information.