CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL

Confidential Item

For Council meeting to be held on

Tuesday 7 July 2026 at 6:00 pm

Refer Item 11.4

Document Set ID: 7060452
Version: 1, Version Date: 03/07/2026

Document Set ID: 7060452
Version: 1, Version Date: 03/07/2026

Confidential Item

11.4 Campbelltown Home Support Program Update

Manager Community Services & Social Development, Tracy Johnstone's Report

Purpose of Report

To inform Elected Members that advice has been received by the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors that there are plans to change the requirement for Elected Members to be recognised as Responsible Persons under the new *Aged Care Act*.

Strategic Plan Link

Focus Area 1.1.3 Facilitate learning, social programs and services for all

Focus Area 4.3.3 Provide a corporate governance system that addresses legislative and Community needs

Previous Council/Committee Resolution

At its meeting on 5 May 2026, Council resolved:

'That Staff

- would notify the Federal Government of Council's intent to transition out of service provision by 31 December 2026
- current Elected Members undertake the responsible person screening tests and meet the Aged Care Act obligations as a Responsible Person.

Background

The new *Aged Care Act* came into effect in November 2025 and at that time identified Elected Members as Responsible Persons, carrying legal and risk responsibilities for the delivery of Council's Home Support Program.

This was one of the major factors leading Elected Members to make the decision to withdraw from the Campbelltown Home Support Program by 31 December 2026. One of the other factors was the transition to 'Support at Home', a business model of service delivery from 1 July 2027.

Following the Council resolution on 5 May 2026, Staff have notified the Federal Government of its intention to transition out of Home Support program and whilst this process has commenced, it is not yet finalised, nor has the confidential decision been released to the broader Community.

Discussion

On 19 June 2026 the LGA released a statement advising that the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, the Hon. Sam Rae stated:

> *'In recognition of the unique circumstances of local government providers of aged care services and out of an abundance of caution, I can confirm that I have instructed the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to progress legislative options to remove elected members of local government authorities from the definition of responsible persons under the Act.*
>
> *These changes would result in elected members no longer needing to meet the responsible person requirements under both the Act and the Aged Care Rules 2025, whilst also ensuring non-elected local government officials involved in aged care services would continue to remain within scope, providing adequate oversight of persons responsible for aged care service delivery.'*

There is also significant advocacy occurring regarding the proposed changes to Support at Home on 1 July 2027, including the potential continuation of block funding into the future. However, at this time there is no further information about Support at Home and as far as providers are aware the current program will continue to transition from 1 July 2027.

There are current changes to how services are delivered under the new Aged Care Act and Rules which are still being worked through by Staff and include the need for new and updated policies and practices to meet the requirements.

The 3 Staff who work in the Home Support Program are aware of Council's decision and have been collectively working to ensure a smooth transition once it becomes public knowledge. If Council upholds their decision to exit at 31 December 2026, the Staff will be redeployed to other roles at Council for 6 months until the end of their contracts. Alternatively, with this new information, and in light of the fact that the Elections have been deferred, Council may wish to continue providing these Federal Government services until the end of the existing contract as this would save Council approximately $142,000.

Therefore, Staff believe there are two Options available to Council at this time:

<u>Option 1</u>

Reaffirm its previous decision that Staff

- would notify the Federal Government of Council's intent to transition out of service provision by 31 December 2026
- current Elected Members undertake the responsible person screening tests and meet the Aged Care Act obligations as a Responsible Person (unless the legislation changes in the interim).

<u>Option 2</u>

Rescind its previous decision and advise the Federal Government of Council's intent to fulfil its obligations for the remaining term of the current contract being 30 June 2027.

Document Set ID: 7060452
Version: 1, Version Date: 03/07/2026

Social Implications

Council has been building its Ageing Well programs over the past few years, which are even more important with the upcoming changes with the Home Support Program.

Environmental / Climate Change Implications

There are no environmental / climate change implications in relation to this report.

Asset Management Implications

There are no asset management implications in relation to this report.

Governance

There are no governance implications in relation to this report.

Risk Management

There are no risk management implications in relation to this report.

Community Engagement

There are no Community engagement implications in relation to this report.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications in relation to this report.

Economic Development Implications

There are no economic development implications in relation to this report.

Financial Implications

If Council transitions out at 31 December 2026 there will be a cost to Council of approximately $142,000 to fund Staff contracts until 30 June 2026. If Council resolves to continue delivering the Campbelltown Home Support Program until the end of the current contract term there will be no cost implications to Council, as it will be funded by Federal Government grant funding.

Recommendation

For Council's consideration.

Attachments:

Nil.

Document Set ID: 7060452
Version: 1, Version Date: 03/07/2026