

Jehovah-Rapha God Who Heals



**CHRISTIAN HOME CARE
NEWSLETTER**

NOVEMBER 2024

WHO TO CALL FOR SUPPORT

ANCA STAMATESCU



Anca oversees the Care Coordination Team. She is the main point of contact for new enquiries as well as feedback and suggestions.

Phone: (03) 9069 6202

STIFFANY TOUSSAINT



Call Stiffany for scheduling new services with a caregiver, changing or cancelling scheduled services, and general admin matters.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 1

DINU STAMATESCU



Call Dinu for any Accounting and Compliance matters that could not be resolved with other members of the team.

Phone: (03) 9069 6201

NEIL MULLUCKS



Neil is part of our Care Coordination Team. He will be in touch with you for assessments, care plans and service reviews.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 2

JESSICA MAGNO



Jessica is also assisting with Care Coordination: service referrals, purchases, booking events and general admin matters.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 2


NISHANTHI DHARMAKEERTHI



Nishanthi is our Accountant Assistant. Call Nishanthi for any queries regarding invoices and statements.

Phone: (03) 9069 6200, option 3

WHAT ELDERS SAY ABOUT US:



I am grateful and feel blessed to be with Christian Home Care. It is frustrating if you cannot look after yourself any more and you are not independent any more.

Inge

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We would love to highlight the testimonies, stories, special anniversaries or events of the Elders in our community.

If you have anything to share, please email us at anca@christianhomecare.com.au and we would love to feature you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Elders:

Willi B. Ruth B. Pauline C. Wendy C.
John D. Raymond D. Elsa H. Angela K. Ivan L.
Nola M. Glenda P. Jane S. Kandiah S.
Peter T. Maria T. Joan W. Peter W.

CHRISTIAN HOME CARE NEWS

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WORD OF THE MONTH:

Jehovah Rapha

Dealing with sickness is always a great prompter for thinking of God and praying for restoration. During our first years together, Dinu had a lot of trouble with asthma and we could not see any signs of healing but God, in His grace and in His time, provided medicines that have made a serious condition only a minor nuisance.

Through my human heart I am quick to value physical healing and reprieve from discomfort and pain while sometimes not thinking of the larger perspective and the greater healing that the Lord Jesus has brought me.

Overall this life is only a snippet by comparison to eternity and my Saviour already healed me from the effects of my sin, from eternal damnation, and brought me the assurance of eternal life with Him.

When asked to heal a paralysed man, Jesus says: "Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." Then the man got up and went home." (Matthew 9:5-7).

Jesus healed the paralytic and many, many other people in the Bible.

Why did not everybody get healed? Why did the apostle Paul not get healed? We don't fully know. Jesus said that His power is made perfect in weakness.

What we do know with certainty is that the Lord is loving and faithful forever and that his love and character do not change. He healed in the past and he continues to heal in this present times. He did miracles in the past and he continues to do miracles today. He is trustworthy and we can confidently come to him with our prayers for healing of our physical, emotional, spiritual and all kinds of sicknesses.

May **Jehovah Rapha, God the Healer** be with you all the days of your life, healing both body and soul, to life eternal!

by Anca Stamatescu



Aged Care Worker Wage Increase – Stage 3

Questions and Answers

(extract, full version available at

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/aged-care-worker-award-wage-increase-stage-3-questions-and-answers?language=en>)

Scope of award wage increase

Q1. Which aged care workers will benefit from the Stage 3 decision?

A: The Fair Work Commission (FWC) decision provided award wage increases for many aged care workers under the Aged Care Award and Schedule F of the *Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Award* from 1 January 2025. The workers in-scope include personal care workers, assistants in nursing, home care workers, recreational activities officers, and ancillary workers including administration staff, drivers, maintenance staff, gardeners, laundry hands, cleaners, and food services assistants. The Stage 3 decision is expected to benefit around 340,000 aged care workers.

Q2. Why are the Stage 3 increases being phased-in?

A: The FWC has decided that larger increases for direct care workers will be phased-in over two tranches. The first tranche will commence on 1 January 2025 and the second on 1 October 2025. Ancillary aged care workers will receive the full award wage increase from 1 January 2025.

The government is committed to funding the Stage 3 increases consistent with the Stage 3 decision. This will have the effect of retaining and growing the aged care workforce, to ensure a higher standard of care for older people in Australia.

Phasing of these increases will allow for a smoother transition for business and the labour market. This approach is consistent with other agreements by the FWC in respect of similar large increases across other awards.

Q6: Will the wage increase apply to casual and part-time aged care workers?

A: The award wage increase applies to the weekly base salary for full-time and part-time employees. It also adjusts casual rates and allowances. More information on current rates can be found on the Fair Work Ombudsman's the [Pay and Conditions Tool](#). The Pay and Conditions Tool will be updated with the Stage 3 changes closer to commencement on 1 January 2025.

Home Care Packages (HCP)

Q13. How will the Stage 3 decision be implemented in the HCP Program?

A: To support the Stage 3 decision, the government is increasing the value of HCPs by 0.93% from 1 January 2025 and 0.44% on 1 October 2025 (subject to the passage of the proposed New Aged Care Act and the Support at Home program that is expected to replace the HCP Program on 1 July 2025). These increases will ensure providers continue to support home care workers and ensure older people continue to receive the same level of care and services.

We are developing a HCP provider fact sheet and care recipient fact sheet to explain what providers need to do, including Frequently Asked Questions.

A letter will be sent to all care recipients and their representatives to inform them of the changes associated with the Stage 3 decision.

Q14. How were the HCP daily subsidies calculated?

A: The 0.93% and 0.44% increases to the [Home Care Package subsidy rate](#) and some supplements have been calculated to fund the average expected cost for providers of paying aged care workers (both employees and subcontracted workers) at least at the increased award rates

(continued on page 10)

PASTORAL MESSAGE: JEHOVAH RAPHA – THE GOD WHO HEALS

Out of the many names of God found in the Bible – all representing His character, JEHOVAH RAPHA is one of the most comforting and powerful. This is first found in Exodus 15:26 ***“If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord who heals you”.***

The particular diseases that God refers to here are the Ten Plagues that He inflicted on Pharaoh and the Egyptians (including: Blood. The waters were turned to blood – the fish in the river died and the Egyptians couldn't drink the foul water. Frogs swarmed forth, covering every inch of land and entering houses and bedrooms. Lice. Wild animals. ...Pestilence. ... Boils. ...Fiery hail. ... Locusts... Darkness and Death of firstborn.) Jehovah Rapha – a compound unity term in Hebrew – “I am the God Who heals”

In Genesis 20:17, the occasion of God healing King Abimelech's whole family through Abraham several centuries prior to the Exodus with Moses, reinforces the truth that God (Rapha) was a healing God from the beginning.

How did sickness come into human history? It is clear from the Biblical narrative that the disease we call 'sin' introduced corruption of the body as well as the soul. Prior to sin's introduction there is no record of sickness!

The story of the Bible (God's story) is the “Greatest Story Ever Told”. Even our most popular human stories from childhood up, contain the same 5 essential components:

1. Creative Bliss
2. Enemy attack

3. Regrettable Consequences
4. Salvation Rescue
5. Restitution

The above 5-stage outline comprise the perfect paradigm of God's story, finishing with “full salvation” which includes healing of body, soul and spirit.

Science and medicine in simple terms are the discovery and operation of God's laws – there is no contradiction. In the Bible history there were several 'outbursts/seasons' of miraculous healings (e.g. with Moses, Samuel, David and of the Prophets' ministries, and climaxing in the New Testament period. There are no less than 138 references to healings in the Bible. 15% of Jesus' ministry is attributed to healings. There is no limit to the type of healing that God can perform, including life extensions, blindness and deafness restored, cripples healed, fevers cured, resurrections from the dead, exorcisms. Every miracle healing had the same message – GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE AND IS WILLING TO HEAL THEM ALL.

I leave with you three simple conclusions:

1. God **Promises** Healing to all through **Jesus** His Son
2. God has **Proved** His promises innumerable times to His people
3. God **Provides** Healing to you now as you trust and believe

A prayer for you today:

O Lord, I acknowledge you have given me life. My life belongs to you. Please heal me in body, soul and spirit just like you promised through Jesus your son. I believe you and thank you for full health and strength and I give you all the glory for making me a testimony of your grace.

by Pastor Richard Warner B.Th. M. Theol.



Christian Home Church

Our Christian Home Church gatherings are welcoming you all with love!

You may be our Elder, our Elders' children, grandchildren, neighbours, friends, our staff, volunteers or subcontractors with their children or parents or friends, or you can simply be a friend of CHC.

If you have never joined us and you would like to come and have a peek, just come and see, you will be the guest of honour!

Our next Christian Home Church service and afternoon tea meeting is planned for:

Wednesday 20/11 where our guest preacher is again Rabbi Lawrence Hirsch.

This will also be our last church service for the year, as the December service will be replaced by our Christmas celebration.

For our usual church services we meet on the premises of : St Paul's Anglican Church (also called Mullum Mullum Anglican Church) at **40 Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood** and there is ample parking. We highly recommend that you keep social distancing and wear a mask if concerned about COVID. You also need to self-screen for COVID or other infectious diseases before attending the services according to CHC procedures already notified to you. **Please RSVP to coordination@christianhomecare.com.au or (03) 9069 6200, select option 4.**

Please note that we cannot take responsibility for your COVID safety when attending; if you deem attendance as an unacceptable risk to your health, we understand!

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR CHRISTIAN HOME CHURCH WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://CHRISTIANHOME.CHURCH](https://christianhome.church) ?

PLEASE DO SO FOR UPCOMING SERVICE DATES, SERVICES RECORDINGS, PRAYER REQUESTS, ETC.

Christian Home Church is an ecumenical non-denominational church where we welcome people from any background and hope that irrespective of having been brought up as Catholics or Baptists or Pentecostal, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians and so on, or maybe having no prior connection with church, we will all meet up in unity to bring glory to our God, praise our Saviour and thank our Holy Spirit.

NAMES OF GOD

Our Newsletters this year focus each month on one of the names of our God.

So far we had: March: **Abba Father**; April: **Jesus**; May: **Holy Spirit**; June: **Yahweh, I Am**; July: **Jehovah Jireh, The Lord Who Provides**; August: **Adonai, Lord, Master**; September: **Elohim, God**; October: **El Shaddai, God Almighty**; November: **Jehovah Rapha, God Who Heals**.

Stay tuned for more names of the Lord!

PSALM OF THE MONTH

Psalms 30:2-7

2 Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

3 You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;

you spared me from going down to the pit.

4 Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;

praise his holy name.

5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

6 When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."

7 Lord, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm;

but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

Features of the new Support at Home program

The new Support at Home program will better support older people to remain independent at home. It will bring together current in-home aged care programs, have new classifications, equitable pricing, an increased focus on early interventions, and higher levels of care for people with complex needs.

Classification and budgets for ongoing services

Support at Home will have 8 classifications for ongoing services, replacing the 4 Home Care Package levels. Each classification will have a budget for participants to access services. A new participant's classification and budget will be determined at assessment based on their needs.

Existing Home Care Package clients and those waiting on the National Prioritisation System will not be reassessed into one of the new classifications when the new program starts.

They will be allocated a budget that aligns to their current Home Care Package level (or the level they have been approved for and are waiting to access).

If their needs increase in future, they would be reassessed into a new Support at Home classification with a higher budget.

Annual Support at Home budgets are broken into quarterly (3-monthly) budgets.

Participants can carry over unspent funds of up to \$1,000 or 10% of the quarterly budget (whichever is greater). The indicative budget amounts for each ongoing classification are:

Classification	Quarterly budget	Annual amount
1	~\$2,750	~\$11,000
2	~\$4,000	~\$16,000
3	~\$5,500	~\$22,000
4	~\$7,500	~\$30,000
5	~\$10,000	~\$40,000
6	~\$12,000	~\$48,000
7	~\$14,500	~\$58,000
8	~\$19,500	~\$78,000

The indicative budget amounts for home care recipients transitioned to Support at Home are:

Transitioned HCP	Quarterly budget	Annual amount
1	\$2,708	\$10,833
2	\$4,762	\$19,049
3	\$10,365	\$41,460
4	\$15,713	\$62,853

The final budget amounts for all participants will be confirmed before the start of the program.

OUR COMMUNITY HAS MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

We are giving thanks to God for our dear Elders Gerlinde and Willi who have celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary



Below is a message from our dear Caregiver Risma: "David and I would like to share our happiness for our life journey together. Your prayers means millions for our wedding held on 1st December going well as planned. Here our engagement photo from Bali on July 2024.



We would like to congratulate Risma and David on their engagement and upcoming wedding and we pray that the Lord will grant them a harmonious and joyous life together, filled with great understanding, fun and laughter!

based on provider expenses on labour in 2022-23. These increases will be sufficient to ensure care recipients continue to receive the same hours of care.

This increase in subsidy is less than the increase in award wage to account for the fact that many care recipients use their HCPs to access goods, equipment and assistive technology, allied health and home modifications which are not impacted by the wage increase.

As per normal arrangements, annual indexation was calculated based on the Wage Price Index and Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Q15. What is the process for increasing prices and consent requirements?

A: Providers may need to adjust pricing models to account for reasonable increases in charges for care and services delivered by workers receiving the award wage increase.

A reasonable and justifiable price increase for care and services must be:

- value for money and reflect the resources it takes to provide the care or service
- clear, understandable and transparent
- in the best interests of care recipients
- in line with program requirements and legislation
- directly related to coordinating allowable care or services or purchasing goods to meet the care recipient's assessed needs and goals.

Any changes to prices must be agreed by care recipients. Where prices increase to account for the increased wages, providers must renegotiate Home Care Agreements with their care recipients and gain mutual consent. This ensures care recipients are adequately informed and understand all the changes and the terms of the proposed agreement.

Note: we do not consider a notice of changes to be discussion and mutual agreement with the care recipient. Care recipients should be given a minimum of 14 days to respond, or other timeframe as agreed in the Home Care Agreement, to proposed changes unless they are urgently required by the care recipient.

Q16. What happens if a care recipient does not agree to price increases?

A: If a care recipient does not agree to the proposed changes:

- the provider should negotiate to reach agreement with the care recipient – provide a detailed rationale in a format that the care recipient will understand
- they may seek independent advice from consumer advocates, family members or legal advisers
- they may wish to change providers ([My Aged Care provides a range of tools to support choice](#)).

A provider should not use security of tenure provisions to cancel a Home Care Agreement where a care recipient does not consent to a change. Cancelling an agreement on this basis should only be used as a last resort. If this provision is used, the provider will have to demonstrate sufficient grounds for terminating provision of care. Where service provision is no longer viable, providers are expected to assist care recipients to find a new provider that is local to the region.

[Guidance on Home Services and Pricing Agreements](#) is available on the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's website.

RATES ADJUSTMENTS

As seen on page 5, from the 1st of January 2025 your subsidies (your funding) for each level of your Home Care Packages will be increased by the government by 0.93%.

From the 1st of January 2025, the Government also increased the pay rates for Caregivers working in aged care through amending the relevant SCHADS Award that governs their pay structure. We rejoice that from this date our Caregivers work will be better remunerated and recognised. Christian Home Care will need to adjust and increase the hourly rates for services provided by CHC Caregivers (e.g. domestic assistance (cleaning), personal care, respite, shopping, cooking, etc.,) as follows:

Normal time:	\$76/hour - this rate is most relevant, applying to 85% of shifts
Evening:	\$83/hour
Saturday:	\$99/hour
Sunday:	\$115/hour
Public Holiday:	\$124/hour

Please note that the increase in wages to our Aged Care Caregivers **does not include subcontractors** like gardeners, allied health professionals, personal alarms providers, etc. Subcontractors may increase their cost of services from time to time based on the effect of relatively high inflation to their businesses.

The hourly increases above also **do not include our office staff** - we are trying our best to compensate our hard-working colleagues in the office for the effects of inflation and also in line with their performance through Care and Package Management fees.

There is no change to your current Care Management and Package Management fees.

Overall, the increase in hourly services costs is funded by the increase in subsidies and the change should be neutral (not worse off) for our Elders.

For any questions on these changes please call Dinu on (03) 9069 6201

Have you got a complaint?

At Christian Home Care we strive daily to provide excellence in Home Care Package Service Delivery. Have we missed something?

Raising your complaint promptly and directly with us gives you the best chance of a satisfactory resolution - please call us on 03 9069 6201.

If you don't receive a response to your complaint or are not satisfied with the response, you can contact Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) or an advocate.

For more information on how to raise a complaint, you can find resources on ACQSC website agedcarequality.gov.au. If you want to contact an aged care advocate, call 1800 700 600. You can contact ACQSC on 1800 951 822.



Christian Home Care Christmas Celebration

We warmly invite you to celebrate with us a very merry and joyous Christmas!

Thursday 5th of December starting at 12:30 pm
for praising the Lord, enjoying lunch and
celebrating until around 4:00 pm
(based on RSVP)

Club Kilsyth, Corner Canterbury & Colchester Roads
1-15 Canterbury Rd, Bayswater North

Please RSVP to our office by the 28th of November at
coordination@christianhomecare.com.au or (03) 9069 6200 (choose option 4)

Please also advise us of any carer / transport needs and don't forget to self screen for Covid according to our document on Thu 5/12 before coming.



*Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year from all of us at
Christian Home Care!*

During our Christian Home Care and Christian Home Church services and events we take photos and videos which we may use in our publications such as newsletters, invitations, presentations, websites, streamed church services, etc. By participating to our services and events you give us permission to use such photos and recordings.