



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians
Minister for Youth and Sport

24 April 2020

Personal monitoring technology for Senior Australians

The Federal Government is helping more Senior Australians access personal monitoring technology during self-isolation.

At the push of a button or via automated technology, the monitoring systems send an alert to a staffed centre or family member in an emergency.

Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians Richard Colbeck said Commonwealth Home Support Programme service providers are being given additional flexibility to fund monitoring services.

This will include monitoring subscriptions for one year.

Older Australians in receipt of home care packages will also be able to access the technology.

“These personal monitoring systems allow a person to seek help even when they can’t use a phone,” Minister Colbeck said.

“They can provide peace of mind and a sense of security to vulnerable senior people and their families and carers during self-isolation.

“Even though the number of new cases of COVID-19 in Australia has dropped to lower levels, this pandemic is far from over.

“Ensuring vulnerable people can get help when they need it, is a top priority during this difficult time.”

Service providers will be able to choose from a range of monitoring and alert services available on the market, many of which have indicated an ability to expand their operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Minister Colbeck has also indicated that the Federal Government would continue to contribute to the South Australian Government’s Personal Alarm Rebate Scheme, which is already available to support older Australians living in South Australia.

The Morrison Government has also announced welfare checks for people who have suspended their home support packages, and a \$10 million funding injection for the Community Visitors Scheme for aged care.

In addition, Senior Australians, their families and carers can now call a dedicated free call support line aimed at supporting the mental health of those impacted by the spread of COVID-19, 1800 171 866.

“These continued measures provide a safety net for those in need and an element of reassurance for families and carers,” Minister Colbeck said.