

memo

memo no: 791
to: All Lifebridge Staff
from: Bronwyn Mitchell, CEO
date: 2 July 2020
subject: Worker Retention Bonus

Dear Lifebridge Staff,

I'm writing to provide information regarding the Federal Government's aged care worker retention bonus. The Australian Government announced two payments of up to \$800 for residential aged care workers and up to \$600 for aged care home care workers. The bonus will be made in two payments – one for staff employed in June and a second for staff employed at 31 August 2020.

Payments are based on the average weekly hours you worked over the four-week period prior to the application date. Lifebridge is currently in the process of submitting the application for payment in July. Please note this payment will be taxed.

Unfortunately, the way the Government has designed the bonus not all aged care workers are eligible and despite extensive lobbying, disability support workers have not been considered.

The Government has determined that you will only receive the payment if you are providing clinical support, personal care (showering, dressing etc), cleaning and support with household tasks, meal preparation, social support, shopping services, community access, transport, allied health and respite services through the Home Care Package program (HCP).

Staff who deliver the Community Home Support Program (CHSP) or disability services have been declared ineligible for a workforce retention bonus.

Although Lifebridge does not begrudge the payment to the staff who are eligible, we believe all our staff are entitled to and deserving of the grant and will continue to support our peak bodies and the Union as they lobby our politicians to try and have the decision reversed.

Please understand if you did not receive the bonus, this in no way detracts from the wonderful work that you have done and continue to do. As your employer, Lifebridge considers the decision inequitable and unfair and we will continue to lobby on behalf of all Lifebridge employees.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Manager.

Kind regards



Bronwyn Mitchell
CEO