



**Home &
Community
Health**
Association

KEY MESSAGES

2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Care and recovery happen through relationships, not transactions.

RECOGNISE HOME CARE'S PLACE AT THE HEART AND CENTRE OF THE SYSTEM

"Home care is not a cost sitting upstream of the system; it is at the centre."

- Recognise home and community care as a holistic first line service, that reduces demand on the health and social care system
- Recognise the beneficial cost differential between hospital, residential, and home care as an explicit funding principle

FUND IT TO MATCH THE NEED

"You cannot grow a sector on funding that hasn't kept pace with its costs."

- Fund the higher acuity capability the Aged Care Report recommends, matched by training, safeguarding, and fair remuneration
- Honour the six percent uplift as a floor, not a ceiling, and guarantee it reaches providers
- Invest urgently in health technology efficiencies and the training that puts them to use
- Transition to a dynamic bulk funded model, with the safeguards the report itself sets out

BACK THE WORKFORCE

"Twenty-six thousand kaiāwhina are already in place, skilled, and ready. What's missing is the investment to match them."

- Urgently develop a cross-sector workforce strategy for aged care
- Pay support workers fairly, in line with the report's own recommendations

PROTECT RELATIONAL, WHĀNAU-CENTRED CARE

"Hauora Māori means care that reflects whānau as the unit of care, not the individual in isolation"

- Implement direct navigation funding for providers already embedded in relationships with whānau
- Recognise that Māori, iwi and community-based providers already reach whānau through trusted, relational care, and fund access to culturally appropriate care
- Ensure funding reflects the reality of rural communities, ethnic minorities, and stretched local providers already going further than funding models account for with rural proofing