

AGEING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

17 March 2010

Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, ACT

Welcome by the Minister for Ageing

The Hon Justine Elliot MP, welcomed members of the Ageing Consultative Committee (ACC).

Minister Elliot addressed the members on the issues surrounding the National Health and Hospital Network (NHHN), acknowledging the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission's Report to address key areas of cost shifting and the inefficiencies of the health system.

Minister Elliot outlined the components of the NHHN, including:

- National standards across an unified health system;
- Establishment of local hospital networks and paying them directly;
- The Australian Government will be the majority funder of the whole public hospital system;
- The Australian Government will take full funding responsibility of GP's and primary health care; and
- \$632 million will be made available to train 1200 new GP's per year across Australia.

Minister Elliot advised that the NHHN will be discussed at Council Of Australian Governments in April and that more announcements on the health reform agenda, including aged care, will follow shortly.

Minister Elliot acknowledged the significance of the Nurse Practitioners legislation being passed and the important work they do for the aged care sector, as well as the release of the Intergenerational Report and recognising the challenges for the sector. It was also noted that the Terms of Reference for the Productivity Commission review into aged care would be provided shortly.

1 Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

Ms Lesley Podesta, First Assistant Secretary of the Ageing and Aged Care Division and Chair of the Committee, acknowledged the traditional owners and all people who came before us in aged care.

Attendees and apologies are at Attachment 1.

The minutes of the 6 November 2009 meeting were accepted.

2 Ageing and Cultural Diversity

Mr Pino Migliorino, the new Chairman of the Federation of Ethnic Communities'

COMMITTEE-IN-CONFIDENCE

Council of Australia (FECCA), provided an outline of the key issues facing ethnic communities in regard to aged care. The Committee discussed these issues.

Action Item

- Members of the Committee to form a Working Group to examine issues surrounding cultural diversity and aged care.
- The Secretariat to provide Mr Migliornio the background information about the Ageing Consultative Committee.

3

Policy and Evaluation

3.1 Intergenerational Report

The Committee expressed their concern regarding the use of the word 'burden' in written documents. The Department assured the Committee that documents produced by the Department will not inappropriately use the term.

3.2 Aged Care Funding Instrument Review

Dr David Cullen, Department of Health and Ageing, provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) and updated the Committee with the progress of the ACFI review. As at 17 March 2010, approximately 90 submissions had been received and will be made available on the Department's website. Dr Cullen informed members that the review is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

3.3 Health Reform / Productivity Commission inquiry

The Hon Justine Elliot MP, addressed this item in her welcoming address. No further discussion occurred.

Action Item

- The Secretariat to provide members information of the funding and initiatives in the \$43 million Productive Ageing Package released on 1 February 2010 by the Treasurer, the Hon Wayne Swan MP and the Hon Mark Arbib MP, Department of Employment Education and Workplace Relations.

4

OACQC

4.1 Implementation of Government's response to the annual review of regulatory burdens on business: Social and economic infrastructure services.

Mr Iain Scott, Department of Health and Ageing, spoke to his agenda paper on this item.

The Committee noted and encouraged the Department's actions in implementing the annual review's recommendations. Mr Scott informed members that the Department is in the process of drafting principles. The Committee noted that it did not consider it necessary for the proposed changes to the principles be circulated for consultation.

Mr Rod Young, Aged Care Association Australia, raised the issue of the impact on the maintenance of the Conditional Adjustment Payment (CAP) with the implementation of the new recommendations, which will only require the General Purpose Financial

COMMITTEE-IN-CONFIDENCE

Report (GPFR) to be completed in order to be eligible to receive CAP payments. Mr Scott noted that it would still be required to prepare GPFRs and to lodge them with the Department.

Mr Richard Gray, Catholic Health Care, queried the action the Department was taking in response to the annual review's recommendation about the GPFRs. Dr Cullen noted that GPFRs were still considered to be the most appropriate form of financial reporting and the Department will consider input from the sector in regards to the efficiency of financial reporting.

Members expressed their concerns about the lengthy period that it takes to consult with the Australian Building Code Board and queried whether an alternative approach might be preferable. Mr Scott advised Committee members that they can contact the Department if they wish to discuss alternative arrangements.

4.2 Key developments in prudential and approved provider regulation

Mr Scott spoke to his agenda paper on this item. Mr Scott advised that a draft of the Client Service Charter will be distributed among members in the coming weeks and the Department is currently in the early stages of considering options to strengthen the accountability of approved providers for accommodation bonds.

Action Item

- The Department to provide members with the draft of the Client Service Charter.
- The Department to provide members with any common themes identified that may have contributed to the 87.4% rate of compliance for refunding accommodation bonds within the statutory timeframe in 2007-08.

4.3 Recent Aged Care Workforce initiatives

Ms Fiona Nicholls, Department of Health and Ageing, spoke to her agenda paper on this topic. Ms Nicholls noted the significance that Health Workforce Australia will have in supporting nursing places.

Members discussed a number of issues around this topic including the retention of nurses from the Aged Care Nursing Scholarships Scheme, what students do not like about aged care and recruiting more doctors for aged care.

4.4 Implementation of Common Standards for Community Care

Ms Nicholls spoke to her agenda paper on this topic. The Committee was advised that a communication strategy will be undertaken with providers and state and territory governments before the new standards are commenced. It was noted that the advice of the Reference Group will be sought during the development of the strategy.

Action Item

- The Department will provide an out of session Communications Strategy paper.

4.5 Accreditation Reviews

Ms Nicholls spoke to her agenda paper on the review of Accreditation Standards. Committee members expressed concern that the review of the Accreditation Standards should involve a broader range of the aged care industry and not be confined to the Technical Reference Group. Ms Nicholls noted that broader consultation would occur

once the draft revised standards have been developed.

The paper 'Residential Aged Care Accreditation Process - Options for enhancement for implementation in the short term' was distributed among members.

Ms Lucelle Veneros advised that it is anticipated that a number of the proposals will be implemented by 1 July 2010.

Members were advised they could comment on the proposals by written submission to the Department by 9 April 2010.

Action item

- The Department to circulate the link to Campbell Research & Consulting's report on the 'Evaluation of the impact of accreditation on the delivery of quality of care and quality of life to residents in Australian Government subsidised residential aged care homes'.
- The Department to send electronic copy of the paper 'Options for enhancement for implementation in the short term' and advise of contact details for comments on the proposals.

4.6 Emergency management

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Action Item

- This item to be discussed out of session.

5 Community Programs & Carers Branch

5.1 Forgotten Australians

Ms Tracy Mackey, Department of Health and Ageing, spoke to her agenda paper on this item.

5.2 Consumer Directed Care

Ms Mackey advised members that work is still being finalised on the implementation on consumer directed care and that additional information will be provided to the Committee in the future.

6 Office for an Ageing Australia Branch

Ms Andriana Koukari, Department of Health and Ageing, informed the Committee that the Day Therapy Centres program is being extended until 30 June 2011.

7 Working Groups

7.1 Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Community Care and Flexible Packages

Ms Nicholls informed the Committee that the Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Community Care became law on 1 October 2009. The Charter is available in 17 languages and can be accessed on the Department's website. The Charter Working Group is currently considering a draft of an integrated package of information to inform care recipients of what they can expect from their services providers. The Charter will form an integral part of this information.

COMMITTEE-IN-CONFIDENCE

7.2 Streamlining Respite Working Group

Ms Mackey verbally updated the members on this item. The working group will be holding a meeting on 16 April 2010 and will update members at the next ACC meeting.

7.3 Planning and Allocations

Mr Peter Broadhead, Department of Health and Ageing, informed the group that the working group had not met since the last ACC meeting.

Mr Broadhead addressed the Committee around the high number of places allocated that are not becoming operational. He sought advice from members on what is impeding planning approvals and what changes are required to address these issues. He reinforced that the Department want to work hard to rectify this problem and acknowledges issues around reserve lists and milestones for providers.

7.4 Communications Working Group

Mr Rod Young noted that he had identified discrepancies in the Residential Care Manual and the *Aged Care Act 1997*. He informed the Committee that he will provide a letter to the Department outlining the differences.

Action Item

- The Department will provide Provisional Allocation data (by state and aged care planning region) at the next meeting of the Planning and Allocations Working Group.
- The Department to seek input from members regarding planning approvals.
- The Department to follow up on the provision of information on dementia services and the regulations regarding younger people in residential care.

8

Other Business

The Committee discussed other issues under 'other business' including:

- Information on younger onset of dementia

ATTENDEES

MEMBER ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
Aged Care Association Australia	Rod Young
Aged and Community Services Australia	Greg Mundy
Catholic Health Australia	Richard Gray
Anglicare Australia	Sandra Hills
UnitingCare Australia	Stephen Muggleton
ACH Group	Mike Rungie
Alzheimer's Australia	Anne Eayrs
Baptist Community Services	Jeff Davey
COTA Over 50s	Ian Yates
Australian Pensioners & Superannuants Federation	Charmaine Crowe
Australian Medical Association	Peter Ford
Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine	Jeff Rowland
Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency Ltd	Mark Brandon
Allied Health Professions Australia	Penelope Mogridge
Australian Nursing Federation	Jodie Davis
LHMU	Melissa Coad
Health Services Union	Erryn Cresshull
Royal College of Nursing Australia	Sue McKechnie
Retirement Village Association Ltd	Andrew Giles
Royal College of Nursing Australia	Susan Koch
National Seniors Australia	Peter Matwijiw
Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia	Pino Migliorino
Department of Veterans' Affairs	Wayne Penniall
Aged Care Commissioner	Rhonda Parker
Department of Health and Ageing (Chair)	Lesley Podesta

APOLOGIES	
Carers' Australia	Joan Hughes

COMMITTEE-IN-CONFIDENCE

ALSO ATTENDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING	
Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance	Carolyn Smith
Policy and Evaluation Branch	David Cullen
Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance	Fiona Nicholls
Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance	Lucelle Veneros
Office for an Ageing Australia Branch	Andriana Koukari
Community Programs and Carers' Branch	Tracy Mackey
Residential Program Management Branch	Peter Broadhead
Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance	Iain Scott