



National Aged Care Advisory Council

Communique – 17 November 2022

At the November 2022 meeting of the National Aged Care Advisory Council, Members welcomed Mr David Tune, AO PSM, and discussed the Capability Review of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. The Advisory Council also considered reform matters including public consultation on legislation to establish the Inspector-General of Aged Care, the phasing of future aged care reforms, potential funding models for in-home care, and met with Ms Janet Anderson PSM, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, to discuss current and future priorities of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

Members welcomed commencement of the Capability Review, acknowledging improvement in sector confidence since the introduction of the Commission. Members advised on the importance of the Commission focussing on issues affecting the aged care system, with a focus on building a culture of continuous improvement. Members also highlighted the importance of independence for the Commission and the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander auditors to support the Commission.

Members considered the Department's proposed approach to public consultation on legislation to establish the Inspector-General of Aged Care. Members recommended that information be provided in an accessible format, with examples and with a simple diagram to better highlight the roles and responsibilities, including who the Inspector-General will report to.

The Advisory Council discussed the Department's draft approach for the phasing of future reforms. Members indicated that it was important to have visibility of all the reforms underway and provided useful feedback that would add value for the sector and older Australians. Members recommended referencing change management activities supporting future reforms.

The Advisory Council considered the current and future priorities of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. Members indicated that many aspects of care have improved since the introduction of the Commission, and that use of the Commission's data would help drive further improvements. Members advised on the importance of needing to attract and retain staff, ensuring First Nations representation in the workforce, and suggested the use of graduate programs and promotion of post graduate study to encourage nurses into the sector.

The Advisory Council discussed potential funding models for in-home care. Members indicated the need to have flexibility across models, and to ensure there is not any added complexity in administration. Members also sought clarification around the approach for funding allied health and noted that payments under the program are no longer likely to be delivered through a point of delivery payment tool.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 15 December 2022.