



## National Aged Care Advisory Council

### Communique – 15 December 2022

At the final meeting of the National Aged Care Advisory Council for 2022, Members discussed several aged care reforms.

**Pulse Survey** – The Council considered the findings of the second Pulse Survey, which was designed to gauge the Aged Care sector’s readiness to implement reforms. The Council provided advice on strategies to address the major findings of the survey and noted the findings will help the sector better prepare for reform implementation.

**Digital Transformation** – The Council recognised the significant potential of the Digital Transformation to the Aged Care sector and the work required to implement the changes. Members emphasised that early communication with the sector will assist with timely decision making. Council encouraged continued inclusion of consumers in user testing, particularly for the Support at Home Program.

**Support at Home** – Council’s advice to government focussed on three key issues: getting the claim and reimbursement systems right; keeping the best elements of the current program to protect vulnerable older people; and getting care management settings right for people who have lower-level aged care needs but are highly vulnerable.

**New Aged Care Act** – Council welcomed the opportunity for early consultation with older people and their families, especially on the rights in the new Act.

**Regulatory Framework** – Council considered the complex balance needed for a regulatory framework to work well. They suggested ways to protect older people, while creating a regulatory system that encourages innovation, competition, and sector expansion.

**Star Ratings** – Council discussed the anticipated the release of the Star Ratings and its implications for older people, their families, and people working in residential aged care facilities. Members noted communications to help the community to understand what each rating meant would be useful. The opportunity to share best practice processes and systems used by facilities with ratings of 4 and 5 was noted.

**Aged Care Quality Standards** – Council welcomed the lead time for the introduction of the Quality Standards in 2024 as it will enhance sector readiness.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 20 February 2023.