



National Aged Care Advisory Council

Communique – 29 March 2023

The Advisory Council took an in-depth look at the impact of the baby boom generation on the aged care system at its meeting on 29 March 2023. Council also provided advice on the new Aged Care Act and effective communication strategies.

Responding to the impact of baby boomers on the aged care system

The Council identified strategies in the following areas to help the aged care system to meet the needs of this generation in a sustainable way.

Embedding and promoting the rights of older people into aged care, and supporting choice and control, within delivery of service, providers, and frameworks for independent decision-making.

Seamless *integration of aged care and the health system* to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes for older people and promote efficiency. It is particularly critical given the increase in co-morbidities and prevalence of dementia partly due to the ageing of the population.

Culturally based support for First Nations communities to address the impact of historic, systemic policies and practices and compounding disadvantage that has contributed to significant distrust that discourages some elders from accessing aged care supports.

Responding to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are a growing proportion of the ageing population. Council noted that while earlier migrant cohorts such as Greeks and Italians had established ethno-specific services, this model may not be repeated by later cohorts.

Supports for vulnerable cohorts to address baby boom generation sub-cohorts that are particularly vulnerable, including the Forgotten Generation, women who are financially vulnerable, the homeless, people who are LGBTIQ+, and remote communities.

Innovative supports, facilities and environments that deliver choice, protect the rights of older people, and respond to the increased prevalence of dementia. New models need to be financially sustainable, to be within the reach of all older people and within the capacity of government to pay.

Consistency in State approaches to issues that affect certainty such as opioid use, sexual activity and dying with dignity impact on choice and control for older people.

Continued *investment in research and the effective translation of research into practice* guidance will drive continuous improvement and help guide public investment decisions.

Harnessing technology particularly platforms that people are already familiar with to improve services for older people and increase workforce efficiency.

New Aged Care Act

Council provided advice on disclosure protections under the Act, specifically the most effective way to manage disclosures from volunteers.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 May 2023.