

# Aged Care Taskforce

## Communique – 16 June 2023

The Aged Care taskforce held its inaugural meeting on 16 June 2023.

The members are aged care sector leaders, experts in the provision of care, and experts in social, health, and demographic trends.

The taskforce was briefed by the Chair, the Minister for Aged Care and Sport, the Hon Anika Wells MP, and Deputy Chair, Mr Nigel Ray, on the importance to all Australians on reforming funding for aged care. This included the need to address the long term funding and financing of the aged care sector to ensure that older people have access to an equitable, innovative, high quality aged care system now and in the future.

The taskforce agreed the need for its work to be guided by a sound set of principles that will be discussed at the next meeting.

The taskforce also discussed the need to take a wide approach to its work, including consideration of:

- A comprehensive view of the scale of the challenge including trends in demography, income and wealth, and a clear assessment of short- and long-term provider viability issues
- The full range of mechanisms to develop a more equitable, sustainable and viable aged care sector, including existing financial products that are currently underutilized in aged care, and
- The practical steps needed to create and embed a system with much better clarity/transparency over what taxpayers and consumers pay, and which is more equitable system where contributions match the capacity to pay.
- Improving the way people access and navigate the system.

Taskforce members are determined to take a data led approach, and to have thorough engagement with the community and aged care thought leaders.

Taskforce members agreed to provide an interim report this October and the final report in December 2023.

The Aged Care Taskforce is chaired by the Minister for Aged Care and Sport, the Hon Anika Wells MP.

The taskforce terms of reference are attached, with final membership list.