

National Aged Care Advisory Council (NACAC)

Communiqué – 7 August 2024

Council welcomed the appointment of the Hon. Kate Thwaites as Assistant Minister for Social Security, Assistant Minister for Ageing and Assistant Minister for Women.

Reform Priorities

Council considered the progress of the aged care reform agenda reiterating the importance of communication with the sector about the reforms. Council emphasised that providers would need time to prepare systems and implement training especially for Support at Home changes. Council also reiterated its commitment to providing independent, whole-of-sector advice on the engagement and implementation approach to the reforms.

Aged Care Data and Digital Strategy Update

Council welcomed the launch of the Aged Care Data and Digital Strategy and Action Plan 2024-29. Council acknowledged the important role of innovation, driven by research, in aged care reform. Council noted the need for integration across social security and health systems. Council advised the need for further simplification and streamlining to avoid increases to administrative burden for providers, workers, and consumers.

Support at Home – First Nations Pathways

Council welcomed a briefing on options for a First Nations model for Support at Home. Council emphasised the importance of fully engaging with First Nation people in developing and building this model.

Draft joint OPAN-ACCPA good practice guidelines for closure of residential aged care homes

Council recognised the immeasurable impact that the closure of residential aged care homes has on staff, residents, and their families.

Members discussed the draft OPAN-ACCPA guidelines and agreed on the importance of clear communication and strong leadership to reduce the negative impact of residential aged care home closures. Council commended OPAN and ACCPA on this excellent collaborative document.

Expansion of the Quality Indicators Program – Home Care

Members discussed the establishment of a Quality Indicator Program for in-home aged care and considered the key areas of care and the proposed consumer experience and quality of life indicators. Members recognised the importance of individual preferences in measuring quality of life.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 25 September 2024.