



# National Aged Care Advisory Council

## Communiqué – 25 September 2024

Council welcomed the Australian Government's response to the Aged Care Taskforce, additional details around the Support at Home Program, and the introduction of the Aged Care Bill 2024 (the Bill) into Parliament on 12 September 2024. Council congratulated the Minister for Aged Care on this achievement. Council noted that the Bill has been referred to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 31 October 2024.

The Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Anika Wells MP, met with Council to hear further feedback on the Bill, including strengths and opportunities.

Members also participated in a 'panel' session with senior departmental officials on the Bill, the Support at Home Program, and the Aged Care Taskforce. Council sought further clarity on the process for finalising the rules supporting the operation of the Bill and the timing around the release of further information. Council advised on the importance of avoiding confusion and misinformation particularly around the Support at Home Program. Council reported that there is a general lack of understanding of the aged care system amongst the community and advised on the importance of a targeted communication strategy.

Council considered the department's analysis and findings from care minutes data and the drivers for non-compliance. Council noted the options the department put forward to support increased compliance and advised on the importance of transparency, funding accountability, and ensuring that policies were data and evidence driven.

Members considered data and evidence provided by the department on the aged care workforce and participated in a 'deep dive' on initiatives to build, train and support workforce into the future.

Council reported an increasing rise in loneliness for older people, both in residential care and for those receiving home care and acknowledged the importance of this being addressed as part of the aged care reforms.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 30 October 2024.