



National Aged Care Advisory Council

Meeting Communique – 3 March 2025

Aged Care Reform Priorities

Council received an update on the progress of aged care reform priorities and were pleased to hear approaches to monitoring implementation, including a focus on identifying any emerging unintended consequences for participants, providers and government.

Council discussed and provided advice on sector readiness, focusing on the information and communication needs of older people who require clear and timely advice about when and how the changes under the new Aged Care Act 2024 will affect them. Council will continue to provide advice and consider the impacts on participants, providers and workforce, working towards a smooth transition on 1 July 2025.

Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner Update

Council welcomed the [*Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*](#) report and [*community booklet*](#) from Andrea Kelly, Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner.

Council discussed examples of good practice outlined in the report and noted the value of examining these with the view to considering how they can be scaled up or incorporated into mainstream aged care services.

Council supports the report recommendations being woven into the overall aged care reform agenda over the next ten years, noting that making services more person-centred, would result in better services for all older people and their families, not only older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Choice and Transparency – Star Ratings & Meal Obligations in home care and community settings

Council discussed findings of the [*independent evaluation of Star Ratings for Residential Aged Care*](#), including future design considerations to drive further improvements and address challenges identified through the evaluation process.

Council discussed the importance of quality nutrition, the specific dietary needs of older people and the responsibility of providers to ensure meals and menus meet these criteria. Council looks forward to further discussions as this work continues to progress.

Support at Home Program

Council has taken a keen interest in the Service List for the new Support at Home Program. Members discussed the range of information the aged care workforce and older people and

their families will require to understand what these changes will mean for their access and choice regarding services.

Council noted that access to the full range of services will need to be monitored, particularly the use of services that ensure safety at home such as clinical care, and personal care including bathing and hygiene.