# Aged Care Transition Taskforce – Summary of eleventh meeting – 18 August 2025

Aged Care Transition Taskforce (Transition Taskforce) Members discussed progress of the Aged Care (Accommodation Payment Security) Levy Amendment Bill 2025 and Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (ACOLA Bill) that was introduced to Parliament on 24 July 2025, the draft Aged Care Rules 2025 published on the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing’s (the department’s) website, and acknowledged the related Senate Inquiry underway.

Members provided insights into sector digital readiness and considered support options for implementation. Members agreed that different aged care providers have different system environments and are at different levels of preparedness. Services Australia provided an update on the ICT test environment as well as the support available for providers to help with system readiness. Members advised on the benefit of developing additional resources, such as a visual map and quick guide for assistance options.

Members considered an update on hardship evidence requirements and acknowledged the steps the department and Services Australia have taken to make the application more intuitive for older people and to improve the timeliness of the process. Members sought additional clarification around the process for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Members discussed the training framework and package of information for providers, including the expectations and obligations of providers to deliver training to their workers. Members advised on further information that providers might need to identify training for their individual service context and workforce.

Members discussed the Support at Home program, including a range of new resources (published and upcoming) that support transition readiness. These materials have a focus on older people and their families and how to prepare for 1 November 2025.

Members provided feedback on proposed questions and data collection methods to inform the evaluation strategy for the Higher Everyday Living Fee*.* Members affirmed the need to monitor changes in provider behaviour to ensure that older people remain at the centre of care.

Members also continued discussions on the implementation pathway to 1 November and the proposed communication activities.

## In attendance (in-person and virtual):

Anne Burgess AM Chair

Sonja Stewart Deputy Chair, Deputy Secretary, Ageing and Aged Care Group

Annie Butler Federal Secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation

Professor Jody Currie Professor of Practice, Queensland University of Technology

Tim Dymond Senior Policy Analyst, United Workers Union

Craig Gear OAM Chief Executive Officer, Older Persons Advocacy Network

Amanda Hawton General Manager, Home Health, Australian Unity

Liz Hefren-Webb Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner

*Tim Hicks Executive General Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Bolton Clarke (Nominated Alternative for Deidre McGill)*

*Luke Hiscox National Research and Policy Officer, Health Services Union (Nominated Alternative for Lloyd Williams)*

Emma Hossack Chief Executive Officer, Medical Software Industry Association

Andrea Kelly Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner

Claerwen Little National Director, UnitingCare Australia

Simon Miller Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare

*Sonya Smart Chief Executive Officer, Villa Maria Catholic Homes (Nominated alternative for Stephen Teulan)*

Patricia Sparrow Chief Executive Officer, COTA

*Roald Versteeg General Manager of Policy and Advocacy, Ageing Australia (Nominated alternative for Tom Symondson)*

## Apologies

Tanya Buchanan Chief Executive Officer, Dementia Australia

Dr Paresh Dawda General Practitioner, Principal and Director, Presantia Health and Next Practice

Deidre McGill Chief Operating Officer, Home & Community Support

 Bolton Clarke

Natalie Molloy Head of Operations and Clinical Governance, HammondCare

Tom Symondson Chief Executive Officer, Ageing Australia

Lloyd Williams National Secretary, Health Services Union