

Aged Care Transition Taskforce – Summary of twelfth meeting – 24 September 2025

Members supported the extension of the Aged Care Transition Taskforce (Transition Taskforce) through to the end February 2026, with meetings to occur every few weeks. Members agreed to changes to the Terms of Reference to reflect this decision.

Members discussed progress of the *Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025* and the *Aged Care (Accommodation Payment Security) Levy Amendment Act 2025* that received Royal Assent on 19 September 2025 and 5 September 2025 respectively and acknowledged the related Senate Committee inquiries. Members were advised during the meeting that the Aged Care Rules 2025 had been finalised.

Members considered an update on education and training to support the reforms starting on 1 November, including supporting communication and engagement activities. Members acknowledged significant progress in the training of providers, workers and older people and discussed planned evaluation and monitoring activities.

Members discussed aged care worker screening, and the broader commitment to establish a national registration scheme for personal care workers. Members acknowledged recently published guidance material to assist registered providers to understand and comply with the worker screening requirements from 1 November 2025.

Members discussed the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's (the department's) progress on mechanisms to manage and mitigate any disruption during the implementation of the *Aged Care Act 2024* and the Support at Home program. Members advised on the importance of ensuring a focus on vulnerable groups and thin markets, useful evaluation metrics that capture the cause of issues and the role of members in acting as a conduit to the department for issues on the ground.

Members reviewed progress toward the 1 November 2025 implementation, including sector digital readiness and advised on the importance of maintaining effective communication to older people, providers and workers throughout the transition journey. Members acknowledged ongoing preparations across the department, Services Australia, and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to pre-test changes to the aged care system in addition to supporting the digital maturity uplift particularly in rural and regional areas. Members highlighted the need to continue to engage with representatives from rural, regional and remote locations on the needs of older people in these areas, including First Nations providers, workers and older people and their families.

In attendance (in-person and virtual):

Anne Burgess AM

Chair

Sonja Stewart

Deputy Chair, Deputy Secretary, Ageing and Aged Care Group

Professor Tanya Buchanan	Chief Executive Officer, Dementia Australia
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
<i>Luke Hiscox</i>	<i>National Research and Policy Officer, Health Services Union (Nominated Alternative for Lloyd Williams)</i>
Emma Hossack	Chief Executive Officer, Medical Software Industry Association
Claerwen Little	National Director, UnitingCare Australia
Deidre McGill	Chief Operating Officer, Home & Community Support Bolton Clarke
<i>Mel Metz</i>	<i>Deputy Commissioner, Sector Capability and Regulatory Strategy, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Nominated alternative for Liz Hefren-Webb)</i>
Simon Miller	Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare
Natalie Molloy	Former Head of Operations and Clinical Governance, HammondCare
Sonya Smart	Chief Executive Officer, Villa Maria Catholic Homes
Patricia Sparrow	Chief Executive Officer, COTA
Tom Symondson	Chief Executive Officer, Ageing Australia

Apologies:

Dr Paresh Dawda	General Practitioner, Principal and Director, Presantia Health and Next Practice
Liz Hefren-Webb	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner
Andrea Kelly	Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner
Lloyd Williams	National Secretary, Health Services Union