

Aged Care Transition Taskforce – Summary of sixteenth meeting – 9 December 2025

The Aged Care Transition Taskforce (Transition Taskforce) met online for the final meeting of 2025. Members relayed what they were hearing from the aged care sector ‘on the ground’ now that it was over five weeks since the new Aged Care Act (the Act) commenced and considered updates on implementation from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department), Services Australia and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (the Commission).

Members agreed that the Act provided a strong foundation for a person-centred aged care system but that it would take time for benefits to be realised. Members shared concerns from parts of the sector in regard to the assessment processes and wait times, including for people living with a diagnosis of dementia; service prices; and workforce training, including for assessors.

There were also signs of a positive shift with older people having more empowered and rights-based conversations.

Members acknowledged the strengthened Quality Standards from 1 November 2025 including an updated complaints process, and that the Commission was working with the Department to address concerns around transparency of pricing for home care services and pressure to sign service agreements.

Members considered a high-level update from the Department on the financial performance of the residential aged care and home care sector including viability support available for providers in need of assistance and activities to monitor provider performance.

Members noted that the final meeting of the Transition Taskforce would be held in February 2026.

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
Liz Hefren-Webb	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner

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Andrea Kelly	Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner
Claerwen Little	Former National Director, UnitingCare Australia
<i>Alex Lynch</i>	<i>Director, Aged and Community Care Catholic Health Australia – nominated alternative for Sonya Smart</i>
Deidre McGill	Chief Operating Officer, Home & Community Support
	Bolton Clarke
Simon Miller	Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare
Natalie Molloy	Chief Clinical Officer, Warrigal
Patricia Sparrow	Chief Executive Officer, COTA
<i>Roald Versteeg</i>	<i>General Manager of Policy and Advocacy, Ageing Australia (Nominated alternative for Tom Symondson)</i>
Lloyd Williams	National Secretary, Health Services Union

Apologies:

Dr Paresh Dawda	General Practitioner, Principal and Director, Presantia Health and Next Practice
Emma Hossack	Chief Executive Officer, Medical Software Industry Association
Sonya Smart	Chief Executive Officer, Villa Maria Catholic Homes
Tom Symondson	Chief Executive Officer, Ageing Australia