



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health,  
 Disability and Ageing**

Meeting Brief  
**MB25-000897**  
**Version (1)**  
**Date sent to MO: 5/06/2025**

**To: Minister Rae**

**Subject: MEETING BRIEF - AGEING AUSTRALIA**

Comments:			
Contact Officer:	s47E(c), s47F	Assistant Director, Ageing Policy, Systems and Evidence Branch, Systems, Engagement and Contributions Division	Ph: s47E(c), s47F
Clearance Officer:	Travis Power	Assistant Secretary, Ageing Policy, Systems and Evidence Branch, Systems, Engagement and Contributions Division	Ph: s47E(c), s47F

**Date / Time:** Friday 6 June 2025, 2:00pm to 2:30pm

**Meeting Type/Location:** TBC by your office

**Traditional Custodians:** TBC

**Desired Outcomes:**

Maintain open communication and strong relationship with Ageing Australia, particularly in relation to the upcoming aged care reform rollout.

Key Attendees/Speakers:	Title:	Organisation:	Mobile No:
Mr Tom Symondson	CEO	Ageing Australia	s47F
Mr Roald Versteeg	General Manager, Policy and Advocacy	Ageing Australia	

**Purpose:**

To maintain strong engagement with Ageing Australia following the deferral of the commencement of the Aged Care Act 2024 (the Act) from 1 July to 1 November 2025.

**Key Matters/Issues:**

- On 4 June 2025, you and Minister Butler announced a delay to the commencement of the Act to 1 November 2025.
- The decision to postpone the Act commencement is a result of many conversations with the sector, s47C [REDACTED]
- Following the announcement that the new Act and Support at Home program will commence 1 November 2025, Mr Symondson noted: “We fully support the new rights-based Aged Care Act, but the simple truth is we’re not ready to introduce all the sweeping reforms by 1 July. Providers have been working around the clock to ensure a smooth transition, but we just haven’t received all the information we need in order to proceed. The additional time will give us the critical space we need to finalise agreements, systems, and processes. This is a win for the 1.4 million older Australians, who rely on aged care. We need to do this reform once and do it right. We hope this extension will help us get closer to that goal.” A copy of the Ageing Australia press release on the deferral is at [Attachment B](#).
- Ageing Australia has previously noted its commitment to implementing the new Act, including the Support at Home Program. Ageing Australia has regularly advocated for the transition to be managed over a longer timeframe to ensure provider readiness and minimise any adverse impacts on older people.

**Sensitivities**

s47C

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UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989

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**Background:**

- Ageing Australia is the national industry association for aged care providers offering retirement living, seniors housing, residential care, home care, community care and related services and represents over 1,100 aged care organisations.
- In addition to Tom Symondson, Ageing Australia's board of directors include CEO of Bolton Clarke, Mr Stephen Muggleton and Ms Sue Cooke, CEO QLD Anglicare. Both providers have members on the Transition Taskforce – Bolton Clarke with Ms Deidre McGill and Anglicare with Mr Simon Miller.

**Attachments:**

- A. Biographical details
- B. Ageing Australia media on the delay to the new Aged Care Act
- C. Draft Talking Points

Attachment A

Biographical details

Name	Details
<p data-bbox="161 439 427 465">Mr Tom Symondson</p> 	<p data-bbox="547 439 1375 734">Mr Symondson, a member of the Transition Taskforce, is the CEO of Ageing Australia. Mr Symondson is also currently a member of the National Aged Care Advisory Council and was also a member of the Aged Care Taskforce. Ageing Australia are a member of the Younger People In Residential Aged Care Sector Reference Group and the Aged Care Workforce Committee.</p>
<p data-bbox="161 969 408 996">Mr Roald Versteeg</p> 	<p data-bbox="547 969 1375 1182">Mr Versteeg is an executive with over 20 years' experience in health-related government and non-government organisations, including roles in advocacy, policy, regulation, general practice education, practice and aged care standards, health and aged care funding, and government relations.</p> <p data-bbox="547 1238 1375 1361">Mr Versteeg is a fierce advocate for a quality and sustainable health and aged care system and joined Ageing Australia as the General Manager for Policy and Advocacy in January 2023.</p>

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Attachment B

# Delay to new Aged Care Act a win for older Australians

📅 June 4, 2025

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## Ageing Australia congratulates the Albanese Government on the decision to commence the New Aged Care act on 1 November.

Ageing Australia has been advocating for months for sensible implementation timelines, to ensure smooth transition for older people and providers.

"This decision is the result of months of intense discussions and calls for practical timelines for the sector. We know that rushed reforms would put levels of care at risk for older people," Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said.

"We applaud the Government for listening to the concerns of the aged care sector and putting the needs of older Australians first."

"We fully support the new rights-based Aged Care Act, but the simple truth is we're not ready to introduce all the sweeping reforms by 1 July. Providers have been working around the clock to ensure a smooth transition, but we just haven't received all the information we need in order to proceed."

"The additional time will give us the critical space we need to finalise agreements, systems, and processes."

"This is a win for the 1.4 million older Australians, who rely on aged care. We need to do this reform once and do it right. We hope this extension will help us get closer to that goal."

Ageing Australia congratulates the Albanese Government, new Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, and Minister for Health and Ageing and NDIS Mark Butler for this decision – which puts older Australians first.

Media contact: Peter O'Dempsey 0499 106 957 or [media@ageingaustralia.asn.au](mailto:media@ageingaustralia.asn.au)

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Attachment C

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Minister	Minister Rae
PDR Number	MB25-000897
Subject	<b>**URGENT** Meeting Brief - Ageing Australia</b>
Contact Officer	s47E(c), s47F s47E(c), s47F
Clearance Officer	Travis Power s47E(c), s47F
Division/Branch	Ageing and Aged Care   Systems, Engagement and Contributions Division
Has Budget Branch been consulted if there are financial implications?	Not Applicable

Adviser/DLO comments:	Returned to Dept for: REDRAFT <input type="checkbox"/> NFA <input type="checkbox"/>
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s47E(c), s47F

**From:** s47E(c),  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2025 2:34 PM  
**To:** Sector Support & Ageing Research  
**Subject:** MB25-000897 - Ageing Australia Meeting Brief [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** MB25-000897 - Ageing Australia Meeting Brief.docx

**FYI: MB25-000897**

s47E(c), [She/Her]

a/g Assistant Director - Sector Support and Ageing Research Section  
 Ageing Policy, Systems and Evidence Branch

Systems, Engagement and Contributions Division | Ageing and Aged Care Group  
 Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing  
 T: 02 s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country  
 Location: Yaradhang, Level 7 South  
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

*The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.*

**From:** s47E(c),  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 June 2025 11:01 AM  
**To:** s47E(c),  
**Cc:** s47E(c), s47F  
**Subject:** Ageing Australia Meeting Brief [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47E(c),  
 s47F

As requested please find attached the Ageing Australia Meeting Brief.

Cheers

s47E(c), s47F

Ageing Policy and Performance Frameworks Section  
 Ageing Policy, Systems and Evidence Branch  
 Systems, Engagement and Contributions Division  
 Ageing and Aged Care Group  
 Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing  
 Ph: (02) s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au

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*The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present*