



National Aged Care Advisory Council

Meeting Communique – 25 February 2026

The National Aged Care Advisory Council met on 25 February 2026 to discuss progress and challenges in aged care reforms, workforce issues, palliative care, residential accommodation, and the transition to new home care arrangements.

The Council highlighted concerns from the sector about assessment tools, and the perception around automated decision making systems. The Council called for clearer communication about the new assessment system so that older people, families, and clinicians understand how decisions are made, and have confidence in the human oversight of the system and what to do if they disagree. They also emphasised the importance of building trust by sharing positive stories, and improving engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including people in remote areas.

The Council noted ongoing concerns about people electing to forgo support services such as showering, meal preparation and transport given the need to contribute to those costs. Workforce challenges also remain significant. Improved training, defined job roles, and sustainable funding, particularly for rural and remote providers who struggle to attract and retain staff are all key elements to a sustainable workforce.

Members strongly supported the Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Program and said that flexible, culturally respectful services tailored to local needs are essential, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Council was briefed on the Residential Aged Care Accommodation Pricing Review and supported the intent of the review to increase the number of residential aged care beds, especially in regional and remote communities. Council looks forward to the outcomes of this review once consultations have concluded.

The Council reaffirmed the vital role of the Commonwealth Home Support Program in keeping older people connected to their communities. Noting the proposed transition of CHSP to Support at Home no earlier than 1 July 2027, the Council called for a careful, staged process to ensure older people remain well supported throughout.

The next meeting of the National Aged Care Advisory Council is scheduled for 22 April 2026.