



Governance (Pillar 5 of the Royal Commission response - Strengthening and streamlining current governance arrangements)

In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, the Australian Government will establish new governance arrangements to ensure rigorous oversight of the reformed aged care service system and provide senior Australians with their own body to represent their interests to Government. This measure will establish:

- a Council of Elders in 2021 to provide a direct voice to Government from senior Australians. Council members will be chosen so they can represent the diverse characteristics, life experiences and views of older people. The Council will consult with senior Australians on a wide range of matters relating to aged care quality and safety, and the needs of senior Australians and their families and carers
- a new National Aged Care Advisory Council with member appointments commencing in mid-2021. The Advisory Council will provide expert advice to Government on a range of matters, including implementation of the aged care reforms, and
- a new office of the Inspector-General of Aged Care to provide independent oversight of the aged care system. Its functions will include identifying and investigating systemic issues in the provision or regulation of aged care, producing and publishing reports of its findings, and making recommendations to Government.

Why is this important?

To ensure the aged care system meets community expectations, and service delivery is based on a culture of dignity and respect, stronger mechanisms will be put in place to ensure the experiences and feedback of senior Australians, their families and carers are included in the reform process.

The office of the Inspector-General of Aged Care will provide greater transparency and independent oversight of the aged care system.

This measure implements *Recommendations 7, 9 and 12* of the Royal Commission's final report.

Who will benefit?

The longer term future of aged care in Australia is a matter of concern for all Australians. As people age, most will come to rely on aspects of the aged care system.

Senior Australians, including the more than 1.3 million people who currently access aged care services, will benefit from enhanced, independent oversight of the aged care system.

Establishing a dedicated Council of Elders for senior Australians to provide advice to Government, informed by their own experiences, will ensure those who are most central to the system can help direct and shape the way it operates.

How much will this cost?

This measure has been costed at \$21.1 million over 4 years, from 2021–22.