



Council of Elders

In response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Australian Government is delivering a \$17.7 billion aged care reform package. These measures will deliver once in a generation reform of aged care, providing respect, care and dignity to our senior Australians.

Purpose

One of these reforms is to establish a **Council of Elders**. The Council of Elders is an appointed group of senior Australians who will provide advice to Government, informed by experience, to ensure that those who are most central to the system can help direct and shape the way it operates.

To represent the views of senior Australians, the Council of Elders will be supported to consult with other senior Australians throughout the country. The Council of Elders will provide a voice for senior Australians to ensure that senior Australians can share advice and insights on the future of aged care.

Meetings and work program

The Council of Elders will meet six times per year, or more frequently if required. It will report to the Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services, and advise the Department of Health.

More information

For further information about the Council of Elders please send enquiries to: CouncilofElders@health.gov.au or visit <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/aged-care-council-of-elders>.

Aged care that puts senior Australians front and centre

Function

The primary function of the Council of Elders will be to provide advice from senior Australians to the Government in respect of aged care reform and ageing generally. In doing so it will consult with senior Australians on a range of matters including aged care quality and safety, the needs of senior Australians and their families and carers and the rights and dignity of senior Australians.

To support consultations, the Council of Elders may:

- call for written submissions and surveys
- hold public meetings and workshops
- facilitate focus groups and individual interviews
- engage in online consultations, including webinars.

The Council of Elders may issue reports on the state of the aged care sector from a senior Australian perspective.

To support these functions Council of Elders members will:

- act in a collegiate and collaborative manner when debating and resolving issues
- respect the confidentiality of Council of Elders proceedings
- engage with the National Aged Care Advisory Council on priority issues.

Remuneration

The members of Council of Elders will be reimbursed for their time and associated business expenses. The Council of Elders will be a non-statutory body and fall under the Department of Health's Remuneration Framework for Members of Non-Statutory Committees. The specific amount of remuneration will be negotiated with individual members prior to being appointed. The rates will vary, taking into consideration numerous factors, such as, their role on the Council of Elders and time spent attending formal meetings.

Membership

The Council of Elders will have members that represent the diverse characteristics, life experiences and views of senior Australians. The Chair will also be a member of the newly established National Aged Care Advisory Council, to provide a consumer perspective.

Council of Elders members must be consumer-focused and have no conflicts of interest in that regard. They may have the backing of an aged care consumer organisation but cannot be paid employees or office bearers of aged care providers or industry peak bodies.

Characteristics of the Council of Elders

The Council of Elders members will comprise a mix of diverse skills, expertise, and background. The dynamics will include a variety of characteristics, including gender balance and broad geographical location, to consider views from rural, regional and remote Australia.

Individual knowledge, skills and capacity requirements

- Commitment to the inclusion of lived experience and demonstrated understanding of the significance of this. Lived experience could include independent ageing in the community, care in the home, residential aged care facilities, dementia care and/or carers.
- Knowledge and/or lived experience in a major identified group (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, dementia, CALD, LGBTI+, etc.).
- Understanding of the aged care sector and the range of issues related to ageing and senior Australians.
- Understanding of systematic advocacy.
- Ability to harness a broad spectrum of information.
- Ability to communicate effectively and with confidence with a broad range of stakeholders including, government, peers, the public and industry.
- Capacity to effectively consult with and capture the views of specifically identified community groups.
- Capacity to effectively influence in a committee environment.
- Capacity to undertake or lead consultative work on behalf of the Council.
- Availability and capacity to participate consistently and work as part of a team.

How to nominate

To submit a nomination, please provide your Curriculum Vitae and a short statement of no more than one page, on your experience and suitability. The statement should address:

- why you think you are suitable to be a member of the Council of Elders
- what you would bring to the role
- key personal characteristics including gender, age, geographic location, life experience and whether you belong to a special needs group
- current experience or engagement with the aged care system.

Submit your nomination to us at CouncilofElders@Health.gov.au by Friday, 15 October.