



## Senior Officer Group on Regulatory Alignment

### Terms of Reference

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#### Context

The 2021-22 Budget included measures to align regulation across the care and support sectors. The measures take a staged approach of a regulatory alignment reform for providers and workers across the NDIS, disability services, aged care and veterans' care.

#### Purpose

Implementation of the measures will be complex and multi-faceted and requires the focus of a number of agencies. Regular meetings will promote communication to help ensure a whole-of-government approach to implementation. The Senior Officer Group (the Group) will serve as a means for representatives to raise and clarify any concerns or queries their agencies have in respect to implementation and policy development.

The Committee will:

1. Consider issues, and provide as a point of escalation on emerging through policy development and implementation of the measures announced in the 2021–22 Budget, namely:
  - a) Implementation of aligning regulation across the care and support sector measure; and
  - b) Alignment of care and support worker regulation across disability, aged care and veterans' care.
2. Provide advice to the Deputy Secretary Steering Committee on Aged Care Reform and to act as a point of escalation for decision making as required.
3. Consider advice to Ministers and Government where relevant.
4. Engage with broader cross-portfolio policy issues and delegate specific issues as required for consideration and advice to working groups (SES Band 1/EL2s). Working Groups will report back to the Committee as needed or requested (Governance framework)
5. Ensure consistency in the communication of Government policy and the strategy for engagement with stakeholders.

#### Membership

Members of the Group will comprise of representatives at the Band 2 or equivalent level from Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Aged Care Safety and Quality Commission, and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. Other agencies or experts will attend meetings as required.

#### Secretariat

The Committee Secretariat will be provided by the Cross-Agency Taskforce located in the Department of Health. The Secretariat will liaise with other departments to help ensure the smooth running of the Group

#### Term

The Committee will initially meet monthly with frequency to move quarterly when required. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis, or otherwise by agreement.



## Governance Framework for Regulatory Alignment

### Deputy Secretary Steering Committee on Aged Care Reform (SESB3)

### Senior Officer Group on Regulatory Alignment (SESB2)

- Policy Band 2s, Health, DVA and DSS and Regulators

### Senior Officer Working Group & Taskforce (SESB1 and EL2)

- Policy Band 1s, Health, DVA and DSS and Regulators

### Cross Agency Regulatory Alignment Project Streams (Project Leads EL2)

- Legislation (Information sharing and alignment of powers)
- Standards
- Regulatory Framework Reviews and Grants/Contracts
- Road Map for Medium to Longer Term Reform
- Regulatory Performance - (eg Quality Indicators and Star Ratings)
- Regulatory Tools (eg Assessments, Audits, Complaints handling, Restraint and Behavior Support)
- Business and System Design to support Alignment (ICT)

### Related Agency Led Measures (Including but not limited to)

- Worker Regulation - Screening and Code of Conduct
- Strengthen Regulation of Restraint and Behaviour Support
- New Aged Care Act
- Aged Care Standards Review