



# National Aged Care Advisory Council

## Communique – 28 July 2022

The National Aged Care Advisory Council's July meeting considered priority reform matters relating to workforce, Aged Care Quality Standards, the Support at Home program and the new aged care Bills. The Chair and members welcomed new member Ms Jody Currie. Ms Currie's appointment restores important Indigenous representation as the Advisory Council considers significant aspects of aged care reform.

Members considered a presentation on developing an implementation plan for a sustainable aged care workforce and discussed the opportunity to bring together key stakeholders to facilitate the development and implementation of a collective plan. Members provided advice on opportunities to address current workforce pressures.

The Advisory Council provided advice to the Department on the direction of the proposed public consultation for strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards, noting the Department of Health and Aged Care is progressing an urgent review of the Standards. Members discussed the need for effective communication strategies to target a broad range of older Australians and frontline workers, targeted consultation measures for smaller organisations, the development of an advertisement campaign, and the opportunity for mapping the current standards against the new Standards to communicate the differences in a concise and simple manner.

The Advisory Council noted their support for the extension of the implementation of the Support at Home program to 1 July 2024, which now will align with the original date put forward by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Members discussed the approach to the development of the new Support at Home model, noting that the extension provided for an opportunity to strengthen the rationale for the development of the model and provide further advice to the Minister for Aged Care.

The Advisory Council were extremely pleased with the introduction of the Aged Care Amendment (Implementing Care Reform) Bill 2022 and the Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment (Royal Commission Response) Bill 2022 on the first sitting day of Parliament. The Advisory Council discussed the schedules pertaining to the Bills and what would be provided for in the subordinate legislation. Members acknowledged the significant work of the Department to have the legislation ready to introduce on the first sitting day.

In acknowledgement of the Advisory Council's key role to provide advice to Government to support the implementation of aged care reforms, the recent advice provided to the Minister for Aged Care from the Advisory Council was recognised. The advice focused on ensuring the success of aged care reforms by providing real solutions, sustainable timelines and factors for consideration during implementation for the Government's key priority aged care election commitments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 25 August 2022.