



# National Aged Care Advisory Council

## Communique – 29 June 2022

The National Aged Care Advisory Council's June meeting provided an opportunity for the Advisory Council to meet with newly appointed Ministers, the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, and the Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Aged Care. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the Advisory Council to consider and identify their most pressing aged care reform priorities that would inform the Council's forward work program.

Minister Butler thanked the Advisory Council for their ongoing contribution towards the aged care reform agenda and spoke on the progress of reform in the aged care sector since foundational reforms were introduced in 2012. Minister Butler discussed the emerging issues that are significant to aged care reform. These included 1) an emphasis on consumer-focused care, including home care; 2) the emerging dementia epidemic; 3) greater focus on diversity; and 4) work addressing the inequity in residential aged care, based on socio-economic area. Minister Butler noted the importance of addressing workforce issues as a priority to resolve increasing pressures across the aged care system due to the continuing increase in older people requiring access to services.

Minister Wells emphasised the importance of achieving aged care reform quickly, noting the people of Australia voted on aged care as a national priority. She stated that workforce was a primary issue and an immediate focus. Minister Wells raised that she was enthusiastic to discuss ideas and new solutions in relation to aged care reform in line with the Government's priority aged care commitments with the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council discussed the key Government priorities to achieve improved outcomes for older Australians with the view to providing specific advice to Minister Wells to support the implementation of reform.

The Advisory Council agreed on five priorities relating to aged care reform implementation to address further as part of the Advisory Council's work program.

The priorities identified were:

- 1) Addressing workforce issues
- 2) Ensuring the new model of funding takes into consideration the viability of all providers in the sector
- 3) The development of a Rights based Act
- 4) The development of an industry transformation plan
- 5) Ensuring the design of Support at Home is right

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 28 July 2022.