



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

National Aged Care Advisory Council

Communique – 13 October 2022

At the October 2022 meeting of the National Aged Care Advisory Council, Members welcomed the Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport, the Hon. Anika Wells MP. The Advisory Council considered reform matters including the National Dementia Action Plan, reforms to in-home aged care, and the role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Commissioner.

In their discussion with the Minister, members advised on the need for clear timelines for the introduction of new arrangements for care at home to allow the sector to be prepared for change. The Advisory Council acknowledged the importance of a rights-based approach to the new Aged Care Act and that rights needed to be reflected throughout the legislation to make the biggest impact to older Australians in a variety of situations. The Advisory Council welcomed the introduction of Star Ratings and reiterated their commitment to work together to ensure its overall success. The Minister encouraged the Advisory Council to continue to advise on future reform priorities to support older Australians.

The Advisory Council considered a summary of the Department's consultation paper for the proposed in-home care model. Members recommended a plan be established for vulnerable people who will require assistance navigating the system. Members also highlighted the need to consider the impact of additional complexities on each of the specialisation groups listed in the Aged Care Act, and that a strong focus on change management will help with the implementation of the proposed model.

The Advisory Council considered the consultation approach for the Department's Draft National Dementia Action Plan. Members advised that the Plan needs to be informed by older Australians in both the community and in Residential Aged Care Homes and reiterated the need to consider the additional complexities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with dementia and their families. Members agreed that it is important to consider the long-term public health element of dementia, including recognition that health risk factors for dementia are the same as other public health issues.

The Advisory Council discussed the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Commissioner (ATSIACC). The Advisory Council indicated a strong interest in remaining involved in the development of the ATSIACC role, and would like to understand more about how the function will work with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commissioners. The Advisory Council also indicated there is a need to consider how other aged care reform initiatives will evolve before giving further advice.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 November 2022.