

## Communique

13 December 2024

The [National Aged Care Alliance](#) ('the Alliance') met in Adelaide on 21 & 22 November 2024.

### Key topics of discussion

The following key issues were discussed by members at the meeting:

- The new Aged Care Act including positive inclusions, elements of concern and areas we are watching as we wait for clarity
- Implementation of the new regulatory model
- Single assessment workforce policy design and rollout
- The state of palliative care in the aged care system facilitated by Palliative Care Australia with insights and reflections offered by two of Australia's experts:
  - Professor Jennifer Tieman
  - Professor Matthew Dean
- The value of spiritual care services for older people and the lack of adequate support for this service as part of Commonwealth-funded aged care services, led by Meaningful Ageing Australia
- Overview of the knowledge resources, capacity training and funding opportunities provided through ARRIA

### Alliance activities

Alliance activities progressed in this quarter include:

- The approval of two new NACA members – Meals on Wheels and ARIIA
- NACA Budget, administration, and a new facilitator and secretariat
- Re-endorsement of the NACA Strategic Plan to June 2026, with a focus on First Nations, Human Rights, workforce, sustainable industry, and alliance capacity
- Strategic Priority Groups met and started working on new workplans and key alliance activities
- Discussion regarding the progression of two key policy papers by June 2025, including consideration of pricing for Support at Home, evaluation of aged care reform to date, workforce supply, and CHSP transition and thin markets

### Government and Department representatives in attendance

The following representatives attended the meeting to contribute to discussions on key topics:

- Robert Day: *Assistant Secretary, Harmonisation and Regulatory Strategy Branch, Quality and Assurance Division.*
- Erika Barnett, *Acting Assistant Secretary, Assessment and Home Care Transition Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care*

### About the National Aged Care Alliance

The [National Aged Care Alliance](#) is the leading coalition of National aged care peak bodies in Australia. Our members represent the core constituencies involved in the delivery of federally funded aged care services: consumers, service providers, unions and professional bodies.

# national AGED CARE alliance

We work together to establish a more positive future for aged care in Australia. We exist to advocate for older and ageing people to be at the center of an aged care system that delivers high quality services. This includes a needs-based approach that ensures equitable outcomes and access to services and support, whilst embracing the diverse characteristics and life experiences of people who need aged care services now or in the future, including their family, friends and carers. The Alliance champions a human rights-based approach to aged care.

We proactively influence and shape ongoing reform of the aged care and interconnecting systems, such as health, housing and disability that support older and ageing people.

### **Note on the conduct of meetings**

National Aged Care Alliance meetings are held under Chatham House rules. This means participants are free to use the information received but cannot reveal the identity or affiliation of the speaker(s) or participants. Participants may indicate if information is to remain confidential to those in the room or if information can be publicly attributed to them.

People named in this communicate have given their permission to be publicly acknowledged as being in attendance.

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## National Aged Care Alliance Members

As at December 2024<sup>1</sup>

