

## Communique

19 February 2025

The [National Aged Care Alliance](#) ('the Alliance') met in Canberra on 13 & 14 February 2025.

### Key topics of discussion

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

- The **Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Anika Wells MP**, provided an overview of the work of the Albanese government in relation to aged care.
- The **new Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Liz Hefren-Webb** provided a brief introduction and shared her thoughts and early observations of the role so far.
- As the **Chair of the Aged Care Transition Taskforce, Anne Burgess** provided an overview of the role of the Taskforce and an update on their work to date.
- The **Department of Health and Aged Care** provided updates on:
  - Recent organisational and leadership changes in the Ageing and Aged Care Group
  - Aged care reform and transition
  - Star Ratings reform
  - Aged care rules consultations
  - Support at Home Program implementation
- Our **First Nations Strategic Priority Working Group** led the Alliance in a session in recognition of the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *National Apology to the Stolen Generation* and explored the impacts of this traumatic experience for aged care services.
- **Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia (ATSA)** presented their interim findings from the independent research they conducted on the provision of assistive technology through government loan pools. The Session was conducted by:
  - Lauren Henley, Director of Policy and Advocacy, ATSA
  - Serene Ovens, CEO, ATSA
- Representatives from the **ANMF and HSU** briefed the alliance on the outcomes of the Fair Work Commission work value case for aged care and outlined the nature of future claims.

### Alliance activities

Alliance activities progressed in this quarter include:

- Feedback and amendments of the content of an Alliance Federal Election Statement.
- Alliance Members provided input and feedback on the recruitment of consultants to work on two Alliance Discussion papers which are being recruited by EOI.

## Government and Department representatives in attendance

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

- *Nick Hartland, First Assistant Secretary, Systems, Engagement and Contributions Division*
- *Mel Metz, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Quality and Assurance Division*
- *Ingrid Leonard, Assistant Secretary, Choice and Transparency Branch, Quality and Assurance Division*
- *Maria Filardo, Acting Assistant Secretary, New Aged Care Act Transition Branch, Reform Implementation Division*
- *Lezah Rushton, Assistant Secretary, Assessment and Home Transition Branch, Reform Implementation Division*

## 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.

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 the 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.

# national AGED CARE alliance

## National Aged Care Alliance Members

(as at February 2025)

