

Communique

17 November 2023

The National Aged Care Alliance (the Alliance) is actively addressing the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and older people in the aged care system.

Yesterday, local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders generously shared their personal experiences, highlighting critical issues that need attention and immediate action to improve the delivery of aged care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Some key areas raised:

Lack of Integration of care:

In some instances, the integration of aged care and health provider pathways and services is lacking. This can lead to challenges in delivering comprehensive and coordinated care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and older people.

Culturally Safe Care Delivery and Cultural Competency:

Ensuring the delivery of culturally safe care is vital for the optimal health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and older people. Cultural competency among the aged care workforce is crucial, and addressing funding in the system is necessary to support these initiatives.

Emphasis on Social Determinants, especially Housing:

Recognising and addressing social determinants such as housing is critical. The lack of culturally safe aged care facilities and housing for both workers and older people can impact the overall effectiveness of and access to the aged care system.

Simplicity of Solutions:

Identifying and implementing simple solutions, identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and older people and providers to authentically meet needs. Simple solutions such as addressing challenges for refrigeration of medication, is essential. Streamlining administrative processes can contribute to more effective and accessible aged care.

The Alliance's support for culturally safe pathways for access and participation in the aged care system aligns with the need to respect and integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and perspectives.

The establishment of a strategic priority workgroup to collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies and government departments shows a commitment to advocacy and awareness.

national AGED CARE alliance

Collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies such as the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council \(NATSIAACC\)](#), an Alliance member organisation, to raise awareness of the specific key findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality and Safety is a crucial step toward implementing necessary changes and improvements in the aged care system.

Overall, the Alliance's efforts reflect a commitment to addressing the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and older people and working towards a more inclusive and culturally safe aged care system.

About the Alliance:

The [National Aged Care Alliance](#) is a representative body of peak national organisations in aged care, including consumer groups, providers, unions, and health professionals, working together to determine a more positive future for aged care in Australia.

This Communique represents discussions held at the Alliance meeting on 16 & 17 November 2023 in Adelaide. It does not claim to represent the views of all Alliance members.