

Communique

2 June 2026

The National Aged Care Alliance (the Alliance) met in Melbourne on 21 and 22 May 2026.

Key topics of discussion

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

- **Dr Jill Gallagher AO** reflected on their leadership roles as the CEO of VACCHO, Chair of NATSIAACC, former Treaty Advancement Commissioner of Victoria, and discussed how aged care reforms are impacting communities.
- The **Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Liz Heffren-Webb**, gave an update on the Commission's regulatory strategy under the *Aged Care Act 2024*.
- **Dr Chris Atmore, Allied Health Professions Australia**, presented on allied health provision in residential aged care facilities.
- **Maryann Hazard, Skills Hubs**, provided an overview of the Regional, Rural and Remote Home Care Workforce Support Program.
- Representatives from the **Department of Health, Disability and Ageing** provided an update on evaluation and monitoring under the *Aged Care Act 2024*.
- **Paul Saddler, CHSP Alliance**, spoke to CHSP Alliance and their work advocating for the retention and future re-design of the Commonwealth Home Support program as a distinct and primary tier of aged care services.
- **Murray Coates, Australian Community Transport Association**, presented on the National Community Transport Pricing Model.
- **Rachael Wass, Meaningful Ageing Australia**, spoke to the recent 'Benchmarking report: Spiritual care in aged care 2025'.

Alliance activities

Alliance activities progressed in this quarter include:

- Held discussions on the Alliance's position on workforce, Support at Home Program, and recent Federal Budget announcements.
- Held workshops and planning sessions to develop the Alliance's next Strategic Plan.

Government and Department representatives in attendance

The following Departmental representatives attended the meeting, provided an update on evaluation and monitoring under the *Aged Care Act 2024* and contributed to discussions on this key topic:

- *Luke Mansfield, First Assistant Secretary, Market and Stewardship Division*
- *Travis Power, Assistant Secretary, Ageing Policy, Systems and Evidence Branch, Market and Stewardship Division*

About the National Aged Care Alliance

The 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 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 centre 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 speakers(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.

