Communique

19 August 2026

The National Aged Care Alliance (the Alliance) met in Canberra on 13 and 14 August 2026.

Key topics of discussion

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

- **Rachel Hauenschild** and **Rosie Ohlsson**, **Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority**, spoke about developing Support at Home pricing advice.
- **Lauren Henley**, **Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia**, presented the key findings and proposed reforms arising from a cross-sector round table on the operation of the Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Scheme under Support at Home.
- **Senator Penny Allman-Payne** addressed the Alliance on the Commonwealth Home Support Program inquiry report and the inquiry into the Support at Home Program.
- **Stuart Hutcheon**, **Stewart Brown**, provided an aged care sector finance update.

Alliance activities

Alliance activities progressed in this quarter included discussions on key issues and concerns held by Alliance members on the transition to the Support at Home Program and Residential Aged Care.

Key themes of Alliance discussions

The following themes were observed during Alliance discussions:

- the importance of understanding implementation impacts as reforms move from policy design into delivery
- discussion of assessment quality, access and consumer experience
- the challenges and opportunities associated with Support at Home implementation
- the importance of hearing consumer, provider, workforce and professional perspectives together when considering reform impacts.

Government and Department representatives in attendance

The following Departmental representative attended the meeting, provided an update on the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) and the IAT Rapid Review and contributed to discussions on this key topic:

- Robert Day, First Assistant Secretary, Quality and Assurance Division (QAD)

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 communique have given their permission to be publicly acknowledged as being in attendance.

NATIONAL AGED CARE Alliance

Our Members

AGED CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

ariia Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia

Ageing Australia

Anglicare Australia in every Community

atsa assistive technology suppliers australia

AAG Australian Association of Gerontology

Australian College of Nursing

ACTA Australian Community Transport Association

independence matters Australian Independent Retirees

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation

AUSTRALIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

apna

BAPTIST CARE AUSTRALIA

Carers Australia

CATHOLIC HEALTH Australia

COTA For older Australians

Dementia Australia®

EAAA Elder Abuse Action Australia

GANA

HSU NATIONAL

Home Modifications Australia

LGBTIQ+ HEALTH AUSTRALIA

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Meaningful Ageing AUSTRALIA

Meals on Wheels™ Australia

NATSIAACC

National Seniors AUSTRALIA

Occupational Therapy Australia

OPAN Older Persons Advocacy Network

Palliative Care Australia Matters of life and death

PICAC alliance Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care

RSL Australia

UnitingCare Australia

Vision Australia Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.