

AGEDCARE

WORKFORCE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUÉ

Facilitated Stakeholder Discussion

Introduction

On Wednesday 8 September and Monday 27 September 2021, the Council convened meetings with stakeholders from the aged care sector to discuss the applications made by the Health Services Union and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (the unions) to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) to increase the wage rates of aged care sector workers by 25%. The meeting was facilitated by CoSolve.

ACWIC convened this meeting in response to the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality and Safety Recommendation 76.2.e¹ and supported by the unions.

Participants from stakeholder organisations that represent the aged care workforce, aged care providers, and consumers - older Australians and their families attended the meeting. The Commonwealth Government through the Department of Health declined the invitation to attend. The names of the organisations represented are listed below.

Meeting purpose

The purpose of the meetings was to explore the potential for developing consensus amongst the stakeholders about the FWC applications.

Participants agreed that there is value in undertaking a consensus process in relation to the FWC applications. The consensus will be documented and provided to the FWC Full Bench for their deliberation.

Next steps

A sub-committee of the group has been established to seek to refine a report that will be presented to the FWC by Friday 19 November 2021.

Opportunities to provide input

¹ Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality and Safety Recommendation 76
(2) By 30 June 2022, the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council Limited should:

...

(e) lead the Australian Government and the aged care sector to a consensus to support applications to the Fair Work Commission to improve wages based on work value and/or equal remuneration, which may include redefining job classifications and job grades in the relevant awards.

Should you wish to provide input into the discussions, please contact your representative organisation to share your views and feedback.

Organisations represented at the 8 and 27 September 2021 Facilitated Stakeholder Discussions

Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA)

Aged Care Industry Association (ACIA)

Aged Care Reform Network

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)

Carers Australia

Council on the Ageing (COTA)

Dementia Australia (*27 September 2021 meeting only*)

Health Services Union (HSU)

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA)

National Seniors Australia (*8 September 2021 meeting only*)

Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) (*8 September 2021 meeting only*)

United Workers Union (UWU)

Directors of the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council's Board participated in the discussions in their capacity as 'A Matter of Care' Strategic Action sponsors.