



AGEDCARE

WORKFORCE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUÉ

5 NOVEMBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

The Aged Care Workforce Industry Council welcomes Australia's considered and continued focus on the aged care sector. The Council sees this new focus as a catalyst for strengthened and ongoing collaboration between the Industry, consumers, unions and the Government to ensure older Australians receive quality, safe and personalised aged care services and supports.

Ongoing commitment and effort are required to ensure we are addressing the long-term sectoral challenges and creating a sustainable and viable aged care system that can support older Australians now and well into the future.

Aged Care Voluntary Industry Code of Practice: The Council has been impressed with the steadfast commitment of the sector to improve and its willingness to work cooperatively to accomplish real results.

The introduction of the Aged Care Voluntary Industry Code of Practice is a big step forward for the Industry. It is a Code developed by Industry for an Industry that is committed to taking practical steps so that older Australians can experience a world class aged care system.

For an Industry that involves multiple organisational types, sizes and services, with significantly different service offerings and business models it is a remarkable achievement for those organisations to come together and unite under one Code.

The Code is designed for providers to continually set the bar higher – so that each day they can aspire to provide better services to older Australians than they did the day before. It is a Code that places ageing Australians, their families, carers and advocates at its heart so that aged care organisations and their workers are inspired to provide continuously improved and innovative, high quality care and supports.

In the midst of one of the most challenging times for aged care, we see providers committed to driving ahead with systematic efforts to improve quality and safety. They are turning great ideas into everyday practice to help workers provide enhanced services to older Australians.

The Council will work with the aged care sector including providers, consumers and workers, to ensure this operates as an effective code. It recognises there is still much work to be done and looks forward to collaborating with the sector over the coming months to resolve outstanding issues and streamline processes.

Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety: The Council notes the important work of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The Council welcomed the opportunity to showcase the Council's progress against its key strategic actions to the Commissioners and its counsel at the November meeting.

Aged Care Census Database: The Council applauds the launch of a national workforce database, prepared by BPA Analytics on behalf of the Council. The aim of this database is to give aged care leaders an evidence-based snapshot of the key issues the workforce indicates are important – to themselves, their consumers, and to the organisations where they work.

We need to help aged care organisations design systems that allow their employees – and by consequence older Australians – to thrive.

This database will help aged care organisations make informed workforce planning decisions. It will assist organisations in how they attract, engage, enable and retain staff – to create organisational cultures that have a strong worker voice and embedded values.

The database is available to aged care organisations now for free. The Council strongly encourages all aged care providers to sign up to the database now. The Council is also facilitating instructive webinars which BPA Analytics is hosting. Please visit <https://acwic.com.au/our-work/> to find out more or email the Council directly at contact@acwic.com.au.

Information on the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council, including previous meeting communiqués, can be found at <https://acwic.com.au>

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 3 December 2020.