



# AGEDCARE

WORKFORCE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### 1 OCTOBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

In its discussions today, the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council welcomed the Minister for Aged Care, Senator the Honourable Richard Colbeck, and his engagement in aged care workforce reform.

With a sector comprised of both government and private sector organisations operating across six states and two territories, the Council's work depends on strong Government and Industry engagement.

High-level understanding and support from the Minister and his department fosters a 'can do' approach to strengthening workforce conditions, processes and planning to help establish aged care as an industry of choice for workers.

The Government has large scale actions to undertake in the National Aged Care Workforce Strategy. These include bringing states and territories together to determine ways of enhancing the intersect between acute and primary care with aged care; improving recruitment and training for the Australian Government aged care workforce and working with the Council to deliver an Aged Care Centre for Growth and Translational Research (CGTR).

The aged care workforce deserves this high-level support that will help it grow and provide sustainable aged care services that meet the needs of older Australians now and into the future.

The Council noted the significant work it was undertaking to finalise the Aged Care Voluntary Industry Code of Practice – the first of its kind that will unite the whole sector behind seven principles to enhance service and process standards.

This Code allows the aged care industry to get ahead of consumer and community expectations and demonstrate that it is taking responsibility for proactively leading improvement.

In 2019, the Council sought Leading Age Services Australia's assistance in socialising and re-drafting the Code with organisations representing consumers, workforce and providers. Following these consultations, LASA and the Council modified the 2018 Code to better reflect current sentiments. The Council is now in the final stage of

consultations with the sector before its planned publication of the Code by end-October 2020.

The Council noted its appreciation for the Government's work in procuring the services of a university (subsequently announced as Flinders University) to co-design the CGTR with the Department of Health and the Council. The Council welcome Government allocation of \$34 million to fund the Centre.

The CGTR will be an important source of evidence-based research that aged care organisations can use to translate research results into improvements in their organisations. The ability of the Centre to effectively 'translate' research results so that the aged care sector can assess the implications of that research to their services is key to the success of the CGTR.

The Council looks forward to ensuring the Centre will address barriers to the development and uptake of innovations across all of the aged care industry through priority-driven, outcomes-focused research.

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