



Communiqué – 24 March 2023 Meeting

At its inaugural meeting, the Interim Inspector-General of Aged Care Consultative Committee (the Consultative Committee) considered and endorsed its **Terms of Reference**. Membership is based on a cross section of professionals with knowledge, expertise and influence in aged care including consumer experience, workforce, providers and policy. Members noted they would meet bi-monthly until statutory arrangements were in place, when the ongoing consultative arrangements would be further considered.

The Consultative Committee noted updates from the Office of the Interim Inspector-General of Aged Care (Interim Office) about:

- the background, role and functions of the Interim Office
- the outcomes of consultation on the Inspector-General of Aged Care Bill 2023 and the status of its progress through Parliament together with the Inspector-General of Aged Care (Consequential and Transitional Provisions Bill 2023)
- work being done by the Interim Office to **establish the statutory Office**
- recent **engagement with stakeholders**, including a series of roundtables undertaken by the Interim Office to provide a forum for discussion on the role, responsibilities and priorities of the Interim and statutory Inspector-General of Aged Care (Inspector-General), and to better understand systemic issues in aged care and assist with developing a workplan for the Interim and statutory Inspectors-General.

The Consultative Committee provided insights into the **process to determine the Annual Workplan** for the Inspector-General and suggested avenues that the Interim and statutory Offices could use to ensure it is informed by people with lived experience of aged care as well as by other industry experts.

The Consultative Committee discussed future opportunities that could be considered for engagement with older people, as well as the **design and branding** for the Office. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Inspector-General's role in tracking and reporting on progress of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and



Safety recommendations was clearly articulated, as well as its role to improve the system to ensure better outcomes for older people.

The Consultative Committee discussed the **criteria to define a systemic issue in aged care**, including prevalence, significance of harm, and pervasiveness. The Consultative Committee also considered and expanded the list of systemic issues that had been identified at recent stakeholder roundtables and through other meetings and consultation opportunities. Issues have been grouped into the following categories, noting the Interim Office will continue to develop and refine a more comprehensive list of issues for consideration:

- Data, research, innovation, and technology
- Workforce
- Access to the aged care system
- Diversity
- Food and nutrition
- Implementation of Royal Commission recommendations
- Interface with health and primary care systems
- Funding and financing of the aged care system
- Specific care issues

The Consultative Committee discussed and sought to prioritise the areas critical for immediate consideration by the Interim Inspector-General, as well as for later consideration by the Inspector-General (once established). The Consultative Committee endorsed stakeholder feedback to date, and that a report on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission should be a priority for the Interim Office.

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee will be held in June 2023.