The MACA Communique – 24 July

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA) met for the third time for the year on 24 July 2019.

The Life Journeys team presented on two projects, the Retirement Years and End of Life. Retirement Years, Life Journeys is a **cross jurisdiction** initiative, comprised of NSW Department of Communities and Justice, SMEs, NSW Department of Customer Service and the Digital Transformation Agency. Council has provided feedback on research presented to date and supported the focus slice of financial awareness and retirement housing options.

The MACA suggested contacts for future consultations.

Local Government NSW presented an overview of the role of Local Government NSW in supporting local councils in their roles, including supporting older people to stay connected and to contribute to their communities. The presentation then focused on the role of councils in developing inclusive communities and addressing the needs of diverse communities.

The enduring discussion focused on how the work of LGNSW and local councils could be better aligned with the implementation of initiatives of the NSW Ageing Strategy. This included promoting the NSW Ageing Strategy to councils at the next Local Government conference in October. The MACA invited LGNSW to attend future meetings.

The MACA discussed plans for the CALD deep dive project and announced a timeline to review the project in November.

Communities and Justice provided an overview of recent changes to the Department. The name has changed from Family and Community Services to Department of Communities and Justice and will be known as DCJ.

Minister Sidoti attended the meeting and spoke about the resources available to the Council.

DCJ provided a progress update and overview on preparations for the MACA Media Awards. There was discussion about the need to challenge the use of ageist stereotypes by the media, and strategies to increase the profile of the Awards, such as social media examples to be sent to media.

DCJ asked for support from the MACA in promoting the Awards. The MACA agreed to the proposed judging process and next steps in planning and promoting the awards.

This year’s awards event will be held on the 17 October at the National Art School in Darlinghurst, Sydney.

MACA recruitment 8 positions and opens 1 September 2019.