



30 May 2018

Communique

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing held their second Council meeting for 2018 at the CBA Innovation Lab in Sydney.

The Hon. Tanya Davies MP, Minister for Ageing, met with Council and endorsed their program of work as outlined in their Strategic Plan 2018, particularly noting the importance of hearing from Council about emerging issues. The Council discussed with the Minister applying further innovation and agility to Seniors Week and the Seniors Festival, particularly through a creative lens, to highlight the ongoing contribution of older Australians to the community. The Minister charged the Council with looking at and making recommendations on how the Seniors Festival could be more innovative and inclusive.

The Council continued its consideration of housing related issues, with a particular focus on housing for older women, achieving more affordable housing, the impact of cumulative disadvantage and homelessness. Emma Nicholson from the Department of Family and Community Services and Katherine McKernan, CEO Homelessness NSW updated Council on *A Plan for Change – Homes for Older Women* and briefed Council on current housing strategy in NSW and initiatives relevant to older women. Council acknowledged the significant work that is being done to address the serious issue of homelessness for older women, and considered how they could most effectively influence the debate. Council determined to further consider how the Victorian model for older people trying to access affordable rental accommodation might apply in NSW, promoting a preventative approach, how they could provide their knowledge and expertise to government, and encouraging the media to broaden the debate around the lack of affordable housing to also include older people.

The Council further explored the emerging issues of the digital divide for many senior Australians and elder abuse. The Council were briefed by Professor Tracey McDonald on the findings of analysis of 6,204 calls to the Elder Abuse Helpline between 2013 and 2017 which will inform New South Wales input to the National Plan for Prevention of Elder Abuse.

The Council were briefed on planning for the 2018 MACA Media Awards to be held on 15 October 2018. The MACA Media Awards seek to challenge negative stereotypes towards older people by highlighting examples of balanced and realistic media reporting on older people and ageing. Council invite nominations for the Awards to be made via the Smartygrants portal (<https://nswcommunities.smartygrants.com.au/mediaawards2018>) or directly to the Council at NSW.MACA@fac.s.nsw.gov.au.

The Council determined to hold a community consultation in Port Macquarie in November 2018.

The next meeting will take place in July 2018.

Kathryn Greiner AO
Chair