



27 March 2018

## **Communique**

The first formal meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing for 2018 was held at Parliament House.

The Council continued its consideration of the serious issue of Elder Abuse Awareness and identified a number of actions to initiate public discussion around behaviours and attitudes that cause older people to experience all types of abuse. The Council's goal is to prompt a groundswell response that balances the widespread ageism and associated exploitation, neglect, violence and abuse of older Australians within their families and society at large and to identify emerging trends in abusive behaviour.

The Council further explored the emerging issues of Keeping Self-funded retirees self-funded and the digital divide for many senior Australians.

The Council welcomed Tom Green and Gavin Priestley, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, Angela Camper from Service NSW and the Hon. Catherine Cusack MLC who discussed digital inclusion trends for older Australians. The presenters provided an overview of the findings of the Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2017 and of program innovations being rolled out to improve digital inclusion and regional connectivity. Members provided advice and feedback on the affordability of and access to both devices and internet connections.

The Council discussed housing related issues and agreed to a work plan to guide its work on this topic, with a particular focus on housing for older women, achieving more affordable housing, the impact of cumulative disadvantage and homelessness.

The Council discussed ongoing plans for the 2018 MACA Media Awards to be held on 15 October 2018.

The Council discussed a proposal to meet in regional locations in NSW and hold community consultations later this year.

The Council provided feedback to Family and Community Services to inform the planning for Grandparents' Day 2018.

The next meeting will take place in May 2018.

**Kathryn Greiner AO**  
**Chair**