



**Australian
Aged Care
Collaboration**

MEDIA RELEASE

13 December 2021

Aged care peaks commit to change in the service of older Australians

The Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC) has announced a significant outcome of the Sector Representation and Development project that is set to conclude shortly.

Key AACC members - Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA) and Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) - have released a statement outlining that maintaining the status quo for industry representation and development is not an option.

The ACSA and LASA Boards have detailed their commitment to work together, alongside the members of the AACC and other provider groups (such as the Aged Care Reform Network), in a process to design and implement a new way of working that better represents and supports all providers of aged care services and results in delivering better outcomes for the older Australians they care for and support. The full statement is below.

The AACC is conscious of the immense challenges facing the sector post the Aged Care Royal Commission. We are also cognisant of the Royal Commissioners' challenge for representatives of the aged care sector to lead reform in a coordinated manner.

The AACC sees the announcement by ACSA and LASA as a key moment in the transformation of the aged care system. It demonstrates the leadership needed for the sector to come together to realise the Royal Commission's vision for a better aged care system

The AACC commits to working with their members and all other aged care providers to realise the promise of this moment. We intend to grasp this 'once in a generation' opportunity to achieve a better aged care system that is rights based, and truly person centred.

About the Australian Aged Care Collaboration

The AACC is a group of six aged care peak bodies: Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA), Anglicare Australia, Baptist Care Australia, Catholic Health Australia, Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) and UnitingCare Australia. Together, the AACC represents more than 1,000 organisations who deliver 70 per cent of aged care services to 1.3 million Australians, either in their own homes or in communal residential settings.

The following representatives of the AACC are available for interview:

<p>Paul Sadler CEO Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA)</p> <p>Media contact: Jane Garcia 0455 111 593</p>	<p>Sean Rooney CEO Leading Age Services Australia (LASA)</p> <p>Media contact: Kate Hannon 08 6311 7809</p>
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STATEMENT ON SECTOR REPRESENTATION

ACSA & LASA Boards

9 December 2021

Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA) and Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) have been active supporters of the sector representation project being undertaken by KPMG on behalf of the Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC). The ACSA and LASA Boards are conscious of the immense challenges facing the sector post the Aged Care Royal Commission. We are also cognisant of the Royal Commissioners' challenge for representatives of the aged care sector to lead reform in a coordinated manner.

The ACSA and LASA Boards have concluded that maintaining the status quo for industry representation and development is not an option. We also understand many of our members support this assertion. We therefore intend to work collaboratively with the Church Peaks and the Aged Care Reform Network to develop a new sector representation model which is inclusive of the whole aged care industry.

We do not believe one voice is achieved by ignoring our differences, but rather by creating a conductor role for any new entity which will coordinate the diverse choir of our various members.

The ACSA and LASA Boards have agreed the following principles and desired outcomes for a new sector representation model:

ACSA & LASA shared principles and desired outcomes:

- 1. Represent whole of the aged care sector including residential care, home care packages and Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services as well as related seniors housing/retirement village programs as required.*
- 2. Advocate for a rich and essential diversity of service providers, especially those who serve vulnerable communities or the needs of specific groups or geographies within the Australian community*
- 3. Support diversity of specialist services and improved access to mainstream services across Regional, Rural and Remote, Culturally and Linguistic Diverse communities, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders, homeless, etc.*
- 4. Maximize one voice advocacy capacity by setting the aged care agenda proactively and responding effectively to Government Five Pillars reforms.*
- 5. Maintain existing and establish new strong relationships with federal, state and territory governments, other provider peaks (e.g. CHSP, disability, health), consumer peaks, and existing (National Aged Care Alliance) or new sector alliances.*
- 6. Minimize membership fees especially for smaller members through achieving efficiencies, while ensuring effectiveness including by expanding core advocacy and member support and advice capacity (e.g. through additional research capacity).*
- 7. Provide enhanced member support services such as training, events, consultancy, IR, payroll largely on a pay as you go basis (allowing for member discounts or subsidization of smaller organisations).*

8. *Support and fund a structured transition program which allows essential advocacy work via AACC and member support via ACSA & LASA to continue uninterrupted while any new model is established*

Next Steps

In preparation for receipt of the KPMG project's final report, and the journey ahead, ACSA and LASA are mobilising staff and resources. This will ensure that the process of detailed consultation, engagement and design that lies ahead will be well planned and resourced. It will also ensure that the high standards of advocacy and support for our members will continue whilst this process is underway.

The journey ahead will include detailed engagement with all key provider groups to fully understand their needs, aspirations and concerns in order to discover how we can best represent and support all providers in our sector and realise an effective transition to a new way of working.

ACSA and LASA have briefed our staff on our shared commitment to work together. Consultation with staff will be ongoing as we assure them of the value of the work they do tirelessly to support our members and our desire to retain and build on their expertise through this process.

At this stage of the process, ACSA and LASA envisage we will be in a position to make a formal sector representation and development model recommendation to our respective members by March 2022 or shortly thereafter.

At that point, should members endorse the proposal, we envisage a transition process to the agreed new model would formally proceed, all the while ACSA and LASA will continue to maintain high standards of representation and support for all members.