



23 February 2022

## **NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing February 2022 Meeting - Communique**

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing held its first Council meeting for 2022 on 23 February at NSW Parliament House, following a Council planning session the previous day.

The Council welcomed the appointment of new members Tony Virtue, Sally Betts, Barbara Ward and Beverley Coe, while saying farewell to departing members Diane Robinson, Michael Fine, David Pigott, Wendy Morgan and Rod Young. Council noted with thanks the generous contribution of time and expertise made over many years by the departing members.

Council held a planning day on 22 February 2022 and priorities identified then informed discussion at the meeting and will continue to inform Council's meeting agenda and advisory work throughout 2022.

As part of the 23 February 2022 meeting Council welcomed The Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors, to discuss priorities for the year ahead including:

- Quality of Life – including community engagement, cost of living and more accessible government services
- Multicultural Seniors
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Seniors

Council agreed that at its 2022 meetings it would welcome consultations with relevant portfolio Ministers, Departmental Secretaries and Senior Executives including Planning (Housing), Local Government (Age Friendly and Liveable Communities), Regional Health, Health, Services NSW (Cost of Living, Digital Access) and Transport.

Council had a presentation from Abbie Galvin, NSW Government Architect, who spoke about minimum accessibility standards in the draft Design and Place State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP). Council remains concerned that NSW is out of step with other major jurisdictions in not supporting silver level accessibility in the National Construction Code for all new dwellings and urges the NSW Government to review its position and re-assess the long term cost benefits of universal access.

Council was pleased to note the number and range of nominations received for the 2022 MACA Media Awards. The Awards will be announced on 30 March 2022 at a special event held after the NSW Premier's Gala Concert as part of the NSW Seniors Festival.

With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions Council is looking to increase its number of meetings and include regional locations with the opportunity to hold forums with seniors and sector stakeholders.

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