



28 April 2022

## **NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing April 2022 Meeting - Communiqué**

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing held its second Council meeting for 2022 on 28 April at NSW Parliament House.

Following on from Council's identification of priorities from its planning day in February 2022 the April meeting focused on Housing for Seniors. Council discussed issues impacting housing and homelessness for seniors, including responses to the Northern Rivers floods, with the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Seniors. Presentations by the Ageing on the Edge NSW Forum and the Department of Communities and Justice Housing and Homelessness Directorate also addressed housing and homelessness issues, with Council in particular noting the recommendations of the Ageing on the Edge *Home at Last: Solutions to end Homelessness of Older People in NSW* report to:

- Fund a specialist older person's housing information and support service that comprises both an early intervention and crisis response, similar to the Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) 'Home at Last' model in Victoria.
- Lower the priority age for social housing eligibility from 80 years as a matter of urgency.
- Build 5,000 social and affordable homes per year for 10 years, 20% of which should be dedicated to older people.

Council agreed to prepare a submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in New South Wales.

The 2022 MACA Media Awards were announced on 30 March 2022 at a special event held after the NSW Premier's Gala Concert as part of the NSW Seniors Festival. Council was pleased with the range of nominations and the efforts category winners made to address ageism. 125 nominations were received and MACA congratulates Anthony Hawwa for taking out the Gold MACA Award. The Gold MACA is presented to an individual whose use of media has made a notable contribution to the realistic portrayal of older people and the development of a community in which older people are valued and respected. A full list of award winners is at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/advisory-councils/maca/media-awards>

Council has agreed to meet six times per year including two meetings outside of Sydney which will take place on the Central Coast and in Port Macquarie later in the year.

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