

Meeting communique – 20 February 2026

- The Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council met in Brisbane on 20 February 2026.
- As this was the first meeting of the Advisory Council following the commencement of the *Aged Care Act 2024* (Act) from 1 November 2025, the meeting included a range of induction and planning activities.

Key matters considered at the meeting

- The Advisory Council welcomed **appointments** by the Hon Sam Rae MP, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, from 1 January 2026:
 - Ms Liz Kearins, Chair
 - Ms Margot Richardson, Deputy Chair
 - Mr Andrew Brown, Ms Fiona Cornforth, Ms Julie Dundon and Professor Eddy Strivens, members.
- The Advisory Council discussed its enhanced role, functions and responsibilities under the Act, and agreed to procedural and meeting arrangements to support it to monitor the performance of the Commission's functions and to provide independent advice.
- Members noted the roles, functions and current priorities of the Commissioner, Complaints Commissioner and Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and discussed implementation of the Act and current and emerging risks and issues.
- The Advisory Council reviewed its 2026 workplan and agreed it would focus on:
 - alignment with the Commission's functions to uphold the rights of older people and protect and enhance their safety, health, wellbeing and quality of life
 - monitoring the performance of the Commission's functions, and identifying current and emerging risks and issues
 - prioritising opportunities where the Advisory Council can add value.

Next meeting

- The next meeting will be held in Adelaide on 16 and 17 April 2026.