Australian Government | Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council

Meeting communique – 15 October 2026

- The Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council met in Brisbane on 15 October 2026. The meeting followed the National Aged Care Providers Conference on 13 and 14 October 2026 and provided members with an opportunity to reflect on key themes and insights from the conference, including building trust, communication and culture across the sector to ensure older people are listened to with empathy and that their rights are respected.

Key matters considered at the meeting

- The Advisory Council discussed current and emerging risks, issues and priorities for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner and Complaints Commissioner.
- The Advisory Council welcomed the interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, Ms Jodi Cassar PSM, to the meeting. Ms Cassar provided an overview of current priorities, building on the work of the inaugural interim commissioner, Ms Andrea Kelly, to continue strong engagement and establish a permanent office.
- The Commission briefed the Advisory Council on the development of its internal *Positive Footprints Integrated Strategy*. Members noted connections with the Commission's sector risk priority for 2026-27 to improve the provision of culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and provided advice on possible areas for further consideration to support the Commission to become a culturally safe regulator.
- The Advisory Council considered the findings of the evaluation of Phase 1 of the Commission's public information program, *'Choice, dignity, respect: your rights in aged care'*, which demonstrated increasing awareness of aged care rights, complaints pathways and confidence to raise concerns when needed.
- Members also discussed several matters related to home and community-based aged care and noted the Commission's establishment of a Home Care Taskforce to strengthen its approach to home care regulation, as well as progress on targeted reviews and continuing engagement with older people, other regulators, government agencies and providers.

Next meeting

- The next meeting will be held online on 10 December 2026.