



Australian Government Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

Communique 4

Update from Standards Guidance Reference Group (SGRG) Meeting – 8 February 2018

- The Department of Health advised that the draft aged care quality standards have been released and are available on the Department of Health website.¹ An overview of how the standards are to apply by service type was provided, with an emphasis on the outcomes for consumers. It was noted that further refinements to the draft standards would occur in response to feedback from the pilot.
- The Quality Agency has commenced work on piloting the draft standards and draft guidance material. An update on the pilot project plan to date, including a breakdown of the three phases of the project and the sampling methodology. Members noted the importance of including organisations delivering care and services to special needs groups as participants.
- The first phase of the pilot will ask service providers to complete a questionnaire about the new standards and guidance material. The questionnaire will seek feedback on aspects of clarity, measurability and relevance. Members provided suggestions for questions to be incorporated into the questionnaire, to ensure it helps refine or inform improvements to the draft standards and guidance material.
- Two edited examples of draft guidance material for draft Standard 1, Consumer Dignity and Choice were circulated to the group for feedback. Members provided feedback on both examples. The Quality Agency will incorporate the feedback provided into the next stage of the drafting of the guidance material.
- KPMG delivered a presentation of the Program Logic that will underpin the development of an Evaluation and Monitoring Framework. The Framework will be used to evaluate the work being undertaken by the Quality Agency to implement the new standards (including the development and implementation of the guidance material). The Secretariat confirmed that, consistent with the terms of reference of the SGRG, members will be asked to provide input to evaluation and monitoring activities, as appropriate.
- The Department of Health confirmed that while the new standards are expected to be legislated on 1 July 2018, providers will have a 12 month transition period during which they will continue to be assessed against the current applicable standards. Assessment against the new standards will begin on 1 July 2019.
- For the next SGRG Meeting scheduled for 15 March 2018, members agreed to have a shorter meeting via teleconference, and undertook to provide feedback on the suitability of this approach going forward.

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¹ <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/quality/single-set-of-aged-care-quality-standards/draft-aged-care-quality-standards-and-draft-application-of-draft-aged-care-quality-standards-by-service-type>