



Australian Government
Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

Communique 7
Seventh Meeting of the Standards Guidance Reference Group

- The Standards Guidance Reference Group (SGRG) convened for a meeting on 10 May 2018 via teleconference.
- Members noted the draft guidance is now available for comment via the Quality Agency website until 31 May 2018. A form is provided to capture feedback, with the option for additional detailed information to be provided by email. The Chair advised that the final versions of the guidance material will be published on 1 July 2018, and will incorporate the feedback received as appropriate.
- Members discussed the outcomes of the Pilot testing of the guidance material, which concluded on 5 May 2018. Members noted a debrief was held with Quality Surveyors on 4 May 2018. A key finding from the Pilots was that assessment teams were satisfied they collected sufficient evidence to validate the draft standards they were assessing and that the standards were scalable to a variety of service types, settings and service sizes. Feedback will also be sought from providers in early June 2018.
- Members were provided with an update on the development of the guidance for Standard 3 – Personal and Clinical Care. Further advice is being considered on the approach to drafting guidance for Standard 3. A number of options are under consideration. Stakeholders will be given a further opportunity to provide feedback on a future draft of guidance for Standard 3.
- Members sought clarification about the key implementation dates around the Aged Care Quality Reforms. The Chair advised the following:
 - Unannounced Reaccreditation Audits will commence 1 July 2018.
 - Subject to agreement by the Government and parliamentary processes, transition to the Aged Care Quality Standards is expected to commence from 1 July 2018, with assessment against the Standards from 1 July 2019.
 - Providers will have a 12 month transition period during which they will continue to be assessed against the current applicable standards. Service providers are encouraged to use the transition period to:
 - align their system, policies and practices with the new standards
 - support staff to understand the requirements of the new standards
 - support care recipients and their families, carers and representatives to understand what the changes mean for them.
 - The Chair advised that these dates will be publicised in the Quality Standards Newsletter in May 2018.
- Members noted the next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on 7 June 2018.

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