



Australian Government
Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

Communique 6
Sixth Meeting of the Standards Guidance Reference Group

- The Standards Guidance Reference Group (SGRG) convened for a meeting on 16 April 2018. The focus of the meeting was to review the latest draft guidance material for the new aged care quality standards. Andrea Matthews of MP Consulting facilitated the meeting.
- The Chair acknowledged the participation of providers in the piloting of the draft standards and guidance material to date and an update was given on some of the pilot findings and how they have informed some of the changes to the draft guidance. Members noted that a feedback report on the pilot will be shared with all service providers participating in the pilot once this phase is completed.
- Members noted that the latest draft guidance has sought to address feedback received at a work shop with members of the Diversity Subcommittee of the National Aged Care Alliance on 21st March (further written feedback from this group is also being incorporated) as well as feedback from the Aged Care Standards Technical Advisory Group on 26 March.
- At the SGRG meeting members provided specific feedback on the draft guidance. The amended structure and focus on the provider as the primary audience was well received by the Reference Group. Generally the guidance structure is now providing sufficient opportunity to explain the standard's intent and examples of ways in which the provider could achieve this.
- The guidance for Standards 1 - Consumer Dignity and Choice, 7 - Human Resources & 8 – Organisational Governance was then discussed in detail. Closer attention to language, and examples of greater specificity to the requirements of the standard were identified by members. Members also provided feedback where: service types (for example, residential aged care, home care) required specific examples.
- Members then discussed different approaches to the guidance for Standard 3 – Personal and Clinical Care, and how to best include some of the risks that are high impact and high prevalence in aged care settings. Member's views were divergent on this issue and a number of options were considered. It was agreed that the intent, principles, and systems for managing the major risks would be included in the draft, and that an outline of the guidance would be reviewed, via teleconference, by members in the week beginning 23 April 2018.
- Members noted that feedback provided at the meeting and any further input following the meeting would be considered in the draft guidance. The draft guidance will be on the Quality Agency website for public feedback from 1 May 2018 for four weeks. Members noted that the next meeting will be convened on 10 May via teleconference and the agenda items will include feedback from the pilot process, and early/interim results from the public feedback process.

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