**MACA 2022 Year in Review**

## **MACA Members 2022**

Kathryn Greiner AO (Chair)

Margret Meagher

Professor Tracey McDonald AM

Joanna Maxwell

Margaret Kay

Professor Joanne Earl

Roy Starkey

Margie O’Tarpey

Dr Anthony (Tony) Virtue

Sally Betts

Beverly Coe

Barbara Ward

## **2022 MACA Priorities and Actions**

The MACA planning day was held on 22 February 2022 in Sydney. The meeting was facilitated by Insight Partners and also introduced newly appointed MACA members. The planning day identified a range of MACA priorities to provide a focus for its work through 2022 and 2023.

The priorities identified complement and extend actions in NSW Ageing Well: Seniors Strategy 2021-2031:

1. Housing Choice and Security
2. Government services in regional areas
3. Proactive inclusion of diverse older people including CALD and ATSI people and LGBTQI+
4. Ageing and corrective services
5. Age-friendly liveable communities

In addition to progressing the 5 focus areas, MACA identified three ongoing issues to keep a watching brief.

* Communication and Health Promotion
* IT and the Digital Divide
* Cumulative disadvantage

In 2022 MACA Member Professor Joanne Earl supervised a number of student papers on MACA Priority Areas. The papers represent scoping reviews or systematic literature reviews of existing research and research is drawn largely from academic journals. The student papers were produced to meet the requirements of 5th and 6th year Masters level training.

The six papers will inform MACA actions for 2023.

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| Document Type | Review Title | Student |
| Masters Thesis - MOrg | Successful Ingredients of Reverse Mentoring | Shannon Pham |
| Masters of Professional Psychology | First Nations Experience of Aged Care | Janine Rogers |
| Masters of Professional Psychology | Improving Mental Health Literacy in CALD groups | Adrian Bancilhon |
| Masters of Professional Psychology | Suicide and Older Prisoners | Ellie Newton |
| Masters of Professional Psychology | Loneliness and Older LGBTQI+ Adults | Johanna McCarthy |
| Masters of Professional Psychology | Interventions for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness | Vittoria Colosimo |

## **2022 MACA Meetings and Events Summary**

In 2022 the MACA held a planning day, six meetings, two regional forums and the MACA Media Awards.

**MACA Meetings**

Six meetings held in 2022 with a range of key speakers and topics discussed, in line with the focus areas:

### First MACA Meeting - 23 February Sydney

As part of the 23 February 2022 meeting Council welcomed The Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors, to discuss priorities for the year ahead including:

* Quality of Life – including community engagement, cost of living and more accessible government services
* Multicultural Seniors
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Seniors

Council had a presentation from Abbie Galvin, NSW Government Architect, who spoke about minimum accessbility standards in the draft Design and Place State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP). Council remains concerned that NSW is out of step with other major jurisdictions in not supporting silver level accessibility in the National Construction Code for all new dwellings and urges the NSW Government to review its position and re-assess the long term cost benefits of universal access.

### Second MACA Meeting - 28 April Sydney

The April meeting focused on Housing for Seniors. Council discussed issues impacting housing and homelessness for seniors, including responses to the Northern Rivers floods, with the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Seniors. Presentations by the Ageing on the Edge NSW Forum and the Department of Communities and Justice Housing and Homelessness Directorate also addressed housing and homelessness issues.

### Third MACA Meeting - 27 June Sydney

The Council meeting focused on inclusion. Council discussed the role of local government in promoting the inclusion of seniors and a planned refresh of the Age-Friendly Communities local government planning toolkit with Cr Darriea Turley AM, President of Local Government NSW.

Council discussed the needs of ageing prisoners with academics Dr. Natasha Ginnivan

and Dr. Adrienne Withall.

Council discussed with needs of ageing Aboriginal people with Aboriginal Affairs NSW representatives and the needs of ageing multicultural seniors with Multicultural NSW representatives.

The Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Seniors, and the Hon Eleni Petinos MP, Minister for Fair Trading and Minister for Small Business, discussed a range of issues with Council including recent reforms to retirement village laws

### Fourth MACA Meeting - 17 August Port Macquarie

The focus of the MACA meeting was to discuss issues raised during the 'Seniors Community' forum also held on 17 August in Port Macquarie.

**Seniors Community Forum**

The Port Macquarie Seniors Talk forum was an opportunity for the Minister for Seniors and Council members to share information about NSW Government services of interest to seniors and to listen to issues raised by older people living in regional NSW.

The forum was attended by over 100 people from the Port Macquarie area and speakers included:

* The Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Seniors
* The Hon Leslie Williams MP, Member for Port Macquarie
* Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM, Ageing and Disability Commissioner

Additional presenters were from Service NSW, who spoke about the many cost of living rebates available to seniors, and the Tech Savvy Seniors program helping seniors build the skills and confidence to use computers, tablets and smartphones.

Information on some of the issues raised was distributed to participants as part of the MACA communique.

The regional forum was also an opportunity for MACA members to hold meetings held with the following organisations and community groups, acknowledging their time and the support provided to seniors in the Port Macquarie region – Local Member Mrs Lesley Williams, Hastings Combined Seniors, Port Macquarie Museum, Dementia Friendly Alliance and Omnicare, Dementia Australia.

### Fifth MACA Meeting - 31 October Terrigal

The focus of the MACA meeting was to discuss issues raised during the 'Seniors Community' forum also held on 31 October in Terrigal.

**Seniors Community Forum**

The Terrigal Seniors Talk forum was an opportunity for the Minister for Seniors and Council members to share information about NSW Government services of interest to seniors and to listen to issues raised by older people living in regional NSW.

The forum was attended by 75 people from the Central Coast area and speakers included:

* The Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Seniors
* Mr Adam Crouch MP, Member for Terrigal
* Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM, Ageing and Disability Commissioner

Additional presenters were from Service NSW, who spoke about the many cost of living rebates available to seniors, the Tech Savvy Seniors program helping seniors build the skills and confidence to use computers, tablets and smartphones, and Carers NSW who talked about the Carers Gateway and the personalised assistance available.

Information on some of the issues raised was distributed to participants as part of the MACA communique.

### Sixth MACA Meeting - 14 December Sydney

The Council meeting reviewed 2022 activities and heard from the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) about how it is supporting the housing needs of seniors, and also from the Ageing on the Edge coalition about priorities around housing and the outcomes of the Parliamentary inquiry into older people and homelessness that concluded on 20th October.

## **MACA Media Awards March 2022**

The MACA Media Awards were developed in 2016 to celebrate media reporting that highlights the real experiences of older people.

The awards seek to challenge negative stereotypes towards older people by highlighting examples of balanced and realistic media reporting on ageing.

The MACA Media Awards were held on 30 March 2022 at the ICC. Participants included MACA members, DCJ staff, and nominated members of the media and their families.

We received over 180 nominations– a record for the MACA Media Awards. The stories reveal the extraordinary breadth and vitality of seniors’ lives, encompassing work, travel, health, Indigenous issues, recreation and countless other pursuits and achievements.

The event was hosted by Tracey Spicer, there was an AUSLAN interpreter to ensure the event was accessible and an elder performed a Welcome to Country to open the awards. A three-piece jazz band played during breaks in the awards.

52 Guests attended for a casual awards ceremony, including 6 out of the 7 winners. A photographer was there to capture all the important moments of the evening and a videographer enabled a vox pops video to be created post event. Formalities finished with approximately an hour of networking, canapés and drinks.

An evaluation of the MACA Media Awards campaign was undertaken with 4 options provided to the MACA and Minister for Seniors. With this, the MACA Media Awards will be rested and from 2023 the **Internship competition – positive ageing story to win an internship** will be progressed.

## **MACA participation in government meetings and external conferences**

Government meetings

MACA members have participated in a range of internal NSW Government meetings, committees and panels:

* Joint meeting of MACA, Disability and Carers Councils
* Ageing and Disability Commission Board
* Ageing Well: Seniors Strategy 2021-31 Interdepartmental Committee
* Ageing Peaks meetings
* Minister Coure regarding Northern Rivers floods and impact on Seniors
* Responding to Social Isolation in Seniors (RSIS) Grant Assessment Panel

External conferences attended

* AHURI National Homelessness Conference
* Carers NSW Conference
* 4th Annual Aged Care Tech Forum

### Correspondence and submissions

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 25/02/2022 | MACA to Susan Pearce Sec. NSW Health | Older people and covid risk |
| 28/02/2022 | MACA to Dept of Planning | MACA submission re Design & Place SEPP |
| 1/03/2022 | Min Coure to MACA Chair | Digital Seniors Card and 30 year anniversary |
| 8/03/2022 | MACA to Minister Coure | Cumulative Disadvantage (updated Feb 2022) |
| 9/03/2022 | MACA to Minister Coure | National Construction Code - silver level access |
| 9/03/2022 | MACA to Minister Coure | Digital Divide (from Chairs of MACA, Disability and Carers Councils) |
| 9/03/2022 | MACA to Minister Coure | Elder Abuse research paper (2018) |
| 9/03/22 | MACA to Minister Coure | Northern Rivers issues |
| 14/03/2022 | MACA Chair to Min Coure | Digital Seniors Card |
| 13/05/2022 | MACA to Minister Coure | Social Inclusion and COVID |
| 27/5/22 | MACA to NSW Upper House Inquiry Homelessness among older people aged 55+ | MACA submission and endorsement of Ageing on the Edge NSW Forum recommendations |
| 1/7/22 | MACA from Minister Coure | MACA raised issues with Minister Coure requesting discussion with Minister for Planning re housing issues including: Council implementation of affordable housing targets, the National Construction Code mandating silver level access. |
| 25/08/22 | MACA from Minister Coure fwd response from Dept of Customer Service | MACA raised issues with Minister Coure re Northern Rivers retirement village residents who had been flooded and the financial costs they were facing for unliveable homes |
| 25/08/22 | MACA from Minister Coure fwd response from Cth Min Emma McBride re Mental Health needs of Northern Rivers seniors | MACA raised issues with Minister Coure regarding the mental health needs of flood affected Northern Rivers seniors |
| 1/11/2022 | MACA Secretariat to ADC | The Right Home, at the Right Cost, at the Right Place, at the Right Time (report from 2015) |
| 19/12/22 | MACA NSW input to Review of the Ageing and Disability  Commissioner Act 2019 (the Act) | MACA noted the exceptional work of the Commissioner and the Commission, given limited resources, particularly in education, stakeholder and agency engagement and transparent reporting and information. MACA input to the review sought to clarify and strengthen the ADC. |