



1 December 2021

NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing December 2021 Meeting - Communique

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing held its fourth and final Council meeting for 2021 on 1 December at NSW Parliament House. Council noted it met on World AIDS Day, *40 years of HIV – where to next?* and that increasing numbers of people living with HIV are ageing and entering retirement.

As part of the meeting Council welcomed key representatives from the [Carers](#) and [Disability](#) Councils to a morning tea. The joint discussion was an opportunity to share the work of each the Councils, during what has been a difficult 18 months, and look at ways to collaborate more in areas of concern for these communities. Issues discussed included social inclusion during COVID, the role of unpaid carers and the intersections between the National Disability Insurance Scheme and My Aged Care service systems. It was decided to hold a follow up meeting in six months.

The SAX Institute presented COVID insights for Seniors from its 45 and up study. The COVID study is the largest in Australia and highlighted the impact of COVID lockdowns on social isolation which will in turn inform future priorities for decision makers including Council.

Council discussed and endorsed the Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance (ADIA) Federal Election policy recommendations. Council noted the leading role Service NSW is playing in bringing government services online and the importance of local libraries in providing broadband access. Council is particularly concerned about the cost of digital access and the number of Australians who remain digitally excluded.

Council confirmed its preferred timeline and process for the 2022 MACA Media Awards and looks forward to the opening of the call for nominations.

Council will hold its next meeting in February 2022 with an associated planning day to establish priorities for the year ahead.

Kathryn Greiner AO
Chair