



23 September 2021

NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, September 2021 Meeting - Communique

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing held its third Council meeting for 2021 on 23 September online.

Council welcomed the Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC, Minister for Seniors, Sport, Multiculturalism and Veterans, on her ministerial appointment. . Council provided an overview of its work and role in advising the Minister on issues to do with ageing in NSW. Minister Ward spoke to her enthusiasm for the Seniors and other portfolios for which she is responsible.

The Ageing and Disability Commissioner presented an update on the work of the work of the Commission, including an increase in calls during 2020-21 compared to the previous year. Consistent with the previous year, the majority of reports to the Commission concern older people, especially older women, with psychological and financial abuse being the main issues raised.

Service NSW discussed its work promoting digital literacy for NSW seniors. Service NSW plays a leading role in supporting older people who do not have access or skills to use digital technology to access government services. This has been an increasingly significant issue over the last year with regularly changing health advice due to the pandemic.

Council discussed how best to strategically engage with Local Government in NSW with a particular focus on the leading roles that Councils can and do play to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and social isolation of NSW seniors.

Council will further review its involvement against its 2021 Strategic Plan, The Year of Influence, at its final meeting for the year on 1 December 2021.

Kathryn Greiner AO
Chair