



NATSIAACC

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ageing
and Aged Care Council



NATSIAACC position on *Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* report by Commissioner Andrea Kelly

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council (**'NATSIAACC'**) welcomes the release of the [*Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*](#) report by the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, Andrea Kelly.

The report's findings confirm what our communities have long known, the aged care system in Australia is failing and hurting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Older people. Some services remain culturally unsafe, difficult to access and largely unresponsive to what our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Older people want and need.

Our Elders and Older people continue to be displaced from Country or Island Home due to a lack of local services, Stolen Generation survivors continue to experience institutional trauma in aged care settings, rigid funding models, a lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led services and a failure to properly embed cultural safety further reinforces systemic inequalities.

Commissioner Andrea Kelly's recommendations provide a clear and practical pathway for transformation. We strongly recommend the Government act on the following:

- Implement a 10-year Transformational Plan, co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Agree to a permanent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Commissioner.
- Complete implementation of cultural safety within the Aged Care system.
- Expansion of Aboriginal Community-Controlled aged care services.
- More flexible funding models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers.
- Greater trauma-aware, healing-informed aged care pathways for Stolen Generation survivors.
- Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce participation.
- Simplified access pathways.
- Greater investment in ageing on Country or Island Home.

This report highlights that the message from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and our Older people is clear. They deserve an aged care system that values, protects and respects them. The report lays the groundwork for change, but real reform requires action, not just words.

NATSIAACC calls on the Department of Health and Aged Care to act without delay, ensuring these recommendations are implemented in full so that no more Elders or Older people are left behind.

C Hardie

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