



**LASA**  
LEADING AGE SERVICES  
AUSTRALIA  
*The voice of aged care*

# PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE AGED CARE INDUSTRY REFERENCE COMMITTEE

LASA submission to the Australian Industry Skills  
Committee

April 2018

**Leading Age Services Australia**

P: 02 6230 1676 | F: 02 6230 7085 | E: [info@lasa.asn.au](mailto:info@lasa.asn.au)

First Floor, Andrew Arcade, 42 Giles Street, Kingston ACT 2604

PO Box 4774, Kingston ACT 2604

ABN: 7115 6349 594

04 April 2018

Australian Industry Skills Committee

Via online portal

**Re: proposed structure of the Aged Care Industry Reference Committee**

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) is the national peak body representing and supporting providers of age services across residential care, home care and retirement living. LASA understands that it is a member of the Aged Care Industry Reference Committee (ACIRC), however, we are awaiting confirmation from the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce.

**Does the proposed structure reflect the aged care sector?**

LASA believes that the ACIRC's member composition should reflect the future aged care workforce which will deliver aged care with a wellness and re-ablement focus. This future workforce will be multidisciplinary and will include diverse skills to support consumers' quality of life through positive ageing, wellness, mental health care and palliative care. LASA believes that the composition of the ACIRC should reflect this workforce of the future.

LASA considers that the proposed ACIRC membership includes too many members without operational experience. LASA proposes that a large majority of ACIRC members should have a good understanding of the operational practicalities of delivering aged care services to older people. Further, ACIRC members should understand the new models of care that are being implemented in aged care under a consumer directed care approach.

**Should particular representative types be removed or are there others that should be added?**

LASA considers that the size of the proposed ACIRC with 17 members may be too large to work effectively. LASA does not agree with the ACIRC including multiple health care related bodies and proposes that these may offer an opportunity to reduce the number of members.

LASA evaluates the ACIRC's composition of its membership as following:

1. Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG): Relevant
2. Australian College of Nursing: Unsure of relevance
3. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners: Unsure of relevance.
4. Functional Health Professionals: Highly relevant
5. Palliative Care Australia: Highly relevant
6. Dementia Australia: Highly relevant
7. Assistive Technology: Highly relevant
8. Mental Health: LASA proposes the Black Dog Institute or Beyondblue as they have a community-based outlook.
9. Consumer advocacy group: Highly relevant
10. Carers Australia: Highly relevant
11. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation: Relevant
12. United Voice: Relevant
13. Universities Australia – LASA believes that the VET sector should be represented as most of the aged care workforce will receive training through this sector.
14. Peak bodies: LASA, ACSA and Aged Care Guild: Highly relevant

#### **Does the structure ensure a consumer focus?**

With Carers Australia and a consumer advocacy group included in the ACIRC, LASA considers the proposed structure to have sufficient consumer input.

#### **Within the proposed structure, which organisations should be on the ACIRC?**

LASA proposes that the Black Dog Institute or Beyondblue be included to provide expertise on training and education requirements in mental health care in the aged care setting.

#### **Final LASA comment**

The Industry Reference Committee for aged care training through the VET sector has been situated within SkillsIQ. Prior to any discussion about new governance of the ACIRC, it would be prudent to review the effectiveness of the existing arrangement and the degree of awareness within the SSO of the evolving Australian aged services landscape.