



Aged Care Industry Reference Committee

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) is establishing an Aged Care Industry Reference Committee (IRC)

- The AISC will undertake a public nomination process to seek industry leaders to sit on the Aged Care IRC
- The IRC will enable the industry and consumers to drive and shape education and training for the sector, including supporting the Aged Care Workforce Strategy

The aged care sector is evolving towards a consumer-centred system where older Australians and their families select the services and service providers to support them and their quality of life.

The ageing Australian population is already increasing demands on the sector and the Productivity Commission predicts by 2050 there will be 3.5 million Australians accessing aged care services every year.

Alongside changes to government policy settings that signal a clear shift from residential to home-based care, these factors point to significant workforce transformation over the coming years.

A consumer-centred approach, with services tailored to diverse needs, will require service providers and employees to strengthen and broaden their skills and competencies.

Flexible training delivery options will also be required. Industry needs to lead the education system to meet these future challenges in skilling and training this exponentially growing workforce.

To strengthen industry leadership in education and training for the aged care sector, the AISC is establishing a specific-purpose Aged Care Industry IRC to:

- reform national training package qualifications and skill sets needed by the aged care industry
- examine new approaches to career structuring and progression in the sector, including education pathways
- scope opportunities for collaboration across vocational education and training (VET), and higher education.

The Aged Care IRC will represent the diversity of services and stakeholders within the aged care sector and consist of employers, peak bodies, subject matter experts, and employee and consumer representatives.

Next Steps

Over March 2018, the AISC will undertake a public nomination process seeking members for the Aged Care IRC.

The table below provides a draft structure and representative categories of the Aged Care IRC. The AISC will refine this further based on the industry feedback through the public nomination process on how the diversity and scale of aged care sector can be best represented.

Proposed Structure and High-Level Membership of the Aged Care IRC

Representative type	Number of positions	Organisations	Comments and rationale
Skills and competencies / profession based organisations	1	Australian Association of Gerontology	The peak national body linking researchers, educators, policy-makers, practitioners and other experts engaged in ageing issues.
	1	Australian College of Nursing	The leading professional organisation for nurses in Australia.
	1	RACGP	Professional body for general practitioners
	2	Functional health professions	The peak national organisation for allied health professionals, including representatives covering physiotherapy and occupational therapy and other skill areas such as social workers, dietitians and speech therapists.
	1	Palliative Care Australia	Palliative Care Australia is the national peak body for palliative care.
	1	Dementia Australia	National advocate body representing people living with dementia, families and carers, and provider of support services, education and information.
	1	Industry Expert - Assistive Technologies	Open for nomination – candidates include Aged Care Industry Information Technology Council member or university medical device researcher.
	1	Mental Health	Open for nomination – candidates could include Royal Australia College of Psychiatrists or the other mental health professional groups
	1	COTA/National Seniors	Consumer advocacy and representative group
	1	Carers Australia	Consumer advocacy and membership network
Employee representatives	1	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)	The ANMF is the union for registered nurses, enrolled nurses, midwives, and assistants in nursing doing nursing work.
	1	United Voice	United Voice is the largest union representing health & aged care members workers.
Linkages with Higher Education	1	Universities Australia	The national peak body for universities.
Peak / advisory / association	3	Employer representative and peak bodies	Employer representatives and national peak bodies representing providers of aged care services across residential care, home care and retirement living. Will include Leading Aged Services Australia, Aged and Community Services Australia and the Aged Care Guild.
Total	17		

About the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC)

The AISC is an industry/government collaboration that advises Commonwealth and State and Territory Skills Ministers on the implementation of national vocational education and training (VET) policies, and approves nationally recognised training packages for implementation in the VET system.

IRCs consist of people with close links to industry, who understand the skills needs of their sector and advise the AISC on industry skills requirements in the development and review of training packages.

For more information, visit the [Aged Care IRC page](#) on the AISC website.