



South West Sydney Ageing Forum

A Network of Services Working together to Support Older People and their Cares to remain independent in the community.

<https://supportservices.org.au/sws-ageing-forum/>

Tuesday, 3 February 2026

Hybrid meeting

Fairfield City Council, 86 Avoca Road, Wakeley

Chairperson: Danielle Taylor

Minutes: Sandra Loyola-Sandoval.

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Email
Rena Fuimaono	Aged Care Consultant	rinachando@gmail.com
Lucie Downer	University of Sydney	Lucie.downer@sydney.edu.au
Alessandra Marcello	University of Sydney	Alessandra.marcello@sydney.edu.au
Alain Adolphe	Uniting NSW.ACT	aadolphe@uniting.org.au
Kelly Grasso	Focus Connect	kellygrasso@focusconnect.org.au
Riya Gill	NSW Health	riyagill@nsw.health.gov.au
Jess Yeoh	The Benevolent Society	Jess.yeoh@benevolent.org.au
Carissa Zielonka	SouthWest Community Transport	bdm@swct.com.au
Maxine Goodwin	SWSLHD	Maxine.goodwing@health.nsw.gov.au
Paola Jamett-Caru	LCC	
Maureen Philbert	BCCT	Maureen.philbert@bcct.org.au
Mahal Rashid	WSMRC	dhafein@wsnrc.org.au
Bobby Kumer	SWSPHN	Bobby.kumer@swsphn.com.au
Sofia Milosevic	SWSPHN	Sofia.milosevic@swsphn.com.au
Helen Zahra	SWSLHD	Helen.zahra@health.nsw.gov.au
Sandra Loyola-Sandoval	CBCity	Sandra.loyola-sandoval@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au
Fina Kimati	DHDA	finakimati@health.gov.au
James Abela	Australian Red Cross	jabela@redcross.org.au
Thida Cheav	Baptist care SWS	tcheav@baptistcare.org.au
Giang Phan	CASS Care	Giang_phan@cass.org.au
Louise Swar	Mycarespace	louise@mycarespace.com.au

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting, provided housekeeping notes, and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Acceptance of previous minutes

Moved: Simoni Lucidi

Seconded: Maxine Goodwin



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3. Presentation: Services Australia – Multicultural Services

Key Points:

- Program delivered by Services Australia to support culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- Multicultural Service Officers provide face-to-face support and outreach to community groups
- Deliver information sessions on government payments and services (e.g. Centrelink, Medicare)
- Support understanding of eligibility, applications, and access to services
- Work with community leaders and organisations to build engagement and trust
- Provide culturally appropriate and language-supported assistance
- Help reduce barriers to accessing government services
- Focus on improving inclusion, participation, and service accessibility
- Partner with local organisations, councils, and community groups for outreach activities

4. Presentation: Fairfield City Council – Community Development Grants

Presenter: Cherie Pescod

Key points:

- Funding up to \$4,000 for community projects
- Open to not-for-profit organisations in Fairfield LGA
- Two funding rounds per year (March and September)
- Supports community, youth, seniors, multicultural, arts, and wellbeing initiatives
- Aims to strengthen community connection, inclusion, and address local issues
- THRIVE grants (up to \$3,000) available year-round for small groups
- Rapid Response grants available for urgent needs
- Projects must benefit Fairfield residents

5. Presentation: Australian Red Cross

Presenter: James Abela

Key points:

- Works across preparedness, response, and recovery phases of emergencies
- Delivers community education on emergency preparedness (e.g. RediPlan, workshops, Get Prepared app)
- Supports community resilience through Community-led Resilience Teams (CRTs)



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- CRTs connect residents, councils, and emergency services to improve preparedness and information sharing
- Provides training and presentations to support disaster readiness
- Engages volunteers in preparedness, response, and recovery activities
- Strengthens social connections and local networks to improve resilience outcomes
- Provides multilingual resources to support inclusive community education
- During response: delivers psychological first aid and immediate wellbeing support
- During recovery: provides recovery mentoring, psychosocial support, and community rebuilding support
- Programs are community-led and locally driven
- Works in partnership with government and local stakeholders

6. Presentation: Facing dementia together (Sydney University)

Presenter: Lucie Downer and Alessandra Marcelo

Key points:

- Program delivered by the University of Sydney supporting people living with dementia and their carers
- Focus on education, awareness, and community understanding of dementia
- Provides workshops and resources to support coping and management strategies
- Encourages social connection and peer support
- Aims to reduce stigma and improve inclusion
- Supports carers with practical strategies and information
- Promotes community resilience through increased awareness and preparedness
- Delivered in partnership with community organisations

7. Sector Support Updates and Other business

Presenter: Sandra Loyola-Sandoval (prepared by Krystle Sands)

Key points:

- Ongoing implementation of aged care reforms led by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Transition following commencement of the new Aged Care Act (1 November 2025)
- Continued preparation for Support at Home program (from 2027)
- Focus on quality, safety, accountability, and consumer rights



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- Strengthening regulatory oversight and compliance requirements
- Workforce challenges remain a key priority:
 - recruitment and retention
 - training and capability development
- Increased focus on integrated care models across aged care, health, and community services
- Continued engagement with sector stakeholders and peak bodies
- Emphasis on service continuity during reform implementation

8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday 14 April, online