

## CommonAge Newsletter, July 2025



### CommonAge Quarterly – July 2025 Edition Leadership, Innovation & Global Action for Ageing Equality

This quarter has seen powerful momentum across the Commonwealth, from innovation roundtables in London to grassroots action in Nairobi—proving that ageing is not just a global issue, but a shared opportunity.

A key highlight was the **Living Well – Ageing Well Innovation Challenge Roundtable** at Marlborough House, where we proposed a bold **£50 million fund** to support scalable healthy ageing solutions across the Commonwealth, especially in low- and middle-income countries and Small Island Developing States.

We also welcomed three new directors to the Board.

- **Ann Keeling**, Chair of Age International (United Kingdom)
- **Darren Birbeck**, CEO of Resthaven (Australia)
- **Anthony Kupferschmidt**, Gerontologist and City of Vancouver lead on ageing (Canada)

Their leadership strengthens our mission for age-inclusive societies.

June saw powerful community action for **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, with our Country Chapters hosting events and campaigns demanding dignity and protection for older people.

Looking ahead to the **IFA Global Conference on Ageing** in Cape Town this September, and with new leaders like **Carmel Murugen** (South Africa) and **Jacqueline Wong** (Asia) stepping forward, our movement is more united and energized than ever.

Let's continue building a future where every older person can live well, age well, and be valued.

– The CommonAge Team

# CommonAge Living Well-Ageing Well Round Table

## 13 June 2025

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On June 13, 2025, experts convened at Marlborough House in London for the inaugural *Living Well – Ageing Well Innovation Challenge* Expert Roundtable. This collaborative event, organised by **CommonAge** in partnership with the **Commonwealth Secretariat**, **Innovate UK**, the **Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC)**, the **Commonwealth Foundation**, and **Standards Wise International**, brought together thought leaders, investors, and policymakers from across the Commonwealth.

The primary objective was to explore innovative solutions to address the challenges posed by ageing populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and Small Island Developing States.

### **Innovation at the Forefront**

A key highlight of the roundtable was the presentation of a proposal by CommonAge to establish a £50 million innovation fund. This fund aims to support scalable, high-impact solutions in health, housing, technology, and social care, with a particular focus on LMICs and Small Island Developing States. The initiative seeks to harness innovation to create age-friendly environments that enable older adults to lead active, independent, and fulfilling lives.

### **Commitment to Inclusive Societies**

The round-table concluded with a shared commitment among participants to build inclusive, age-friendly societies across the Commonwealth. Recognising the diverse needs and challenges faced by older populations, especially in resource-constrained settings, the event emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to develop and implement solutions that promote healthy ageing.

This gathering at Marlborough House marks a significant step towards shaping a cross-sector, pan-Commonwealth response to the ageing demographic. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the Commonwealth aims to ensure that older individuals are not only living longer but are also empowered to live well.

[Secretary General's Video Message](#)

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# Charting New Horizons with New Leadership

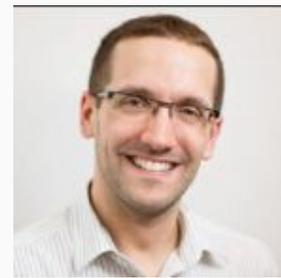
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**Ann Keeling**  
Chair – Age International  
Retired Global Health &  
Gender Equality Leader



**Darren Birbeck**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Resthaven Incorporated  
(Australia)



**Anthony Kupferschmidt, MA**  
Gerontologist, Strategic Lead,  
Aging and Older Persons,  
City of Vancouver (Canada)

[About the Board](#)

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## Jacqueline Wong, CommonAge Director Appointed Civil Society Advisory Governor for Asia (2025-2027)

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Jacqueline Wong is a dedicated advocate for public health and social equity, representing Asia as the Civil Society Advisory Governor. With a robust background in leading regional initiatives, she has been instrumental in addressing pressing health challenges, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the needs of aging populations across the continent.

Her leadership was pivotal in organising the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regional dialogues on NCDs, focusing on building resilient healthcare systems post-COVID-19. These dialogues emphasized the importance of people-centered approaches and the meaningful involvement of individuals living with NCDs, contributing to the development of a Global Charter on their engagement.

Additionally, Jacqueline has been actively involved in discussions surrounding healthy aging in Asia, advocating for policies that promote life-course immunization and the creation of age-friendly communities. Her participation in forums, such as those hosted by the French Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, underscores her commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of older adults in the region.

Beyond her regional contributions, Jacqueline has represented civil society perspectives in esteemed international platforms, including the United Nations and the Group of Twenty (G20). Her insights have been crucial in shaping global dialogues on social justice, sustainable development, and equitable healthcare access.

Through her multifaceted engagement, Jacqueline Wong continues to bridge regional experiences with global strategies, ensuring that the voices of civil society are integral to shaping inclusive and resilient health policies across Asia and beyond.

[Read more about our new CSAG appointments](#)

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## CWEIC - Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council

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CWEIC had a vibrant June, hosting key events in London that highlighted the Commonwealth's role in addressing global development challenges.

Highlights included a workshop on international standards at the FCDO, the Global Advisory Council meeting, and the CommonAge Innovation Challenge on healthy ageing. London Tech Week featured Strategic Partner-led discussions on ASEAN's digital future and AI in dispute resolution.

They welcomed new Strategic Partners, Ashong Benjamin & Associates and ShoreTree Holdings, and look ahead to major delegations to the India-Africa Business Conclave and Intra-Africa Trade Fair. As leadership transitions from Rosie Glazebrook to Samantha Cohen, CWEIC remains committed to deepening Commonwealth collaboration.

[Read More on Future Activities](#)

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## Developments from South Africa – Welcoming New Leadership at CommonAge South Africa Chapter

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We are delighted to welcome **Carmel Murugen** as the new Chair of the CommonAge South Africa Chapter — a bold and passionate leader committed to driving meaningful change for older people across the region.

With an impressive track record as Divisional Manager at Tafta, Carmel brings deep experience in ageing services and advocacy. She recently represented Africa at CHOGM 2024 in Samoa as part of the CommonAge delegation, where she contributed to a high-level panel led by CommonAge Director, Linda Justin. This session resulted in a ground-breaking dementia report presented to global leaders and policymakers.

Carmel's research into elder abuse and fall prevention is already influencing more responsive, age-friendly policies. As Project Lead for the Train the Trainer (TtT) programme, she is catalysing impact across three Sub-Saharan countries by building the capacity of local changemakers in the ageing sector.

Her leadership champions dementia-inclusive communities and promotes culturally relevant care models, rooted in empathy, innovation, and social justice.

"I'm honoured to take on this role at a time when the ageing agenda is gaining long overdue recognition. We have an opportunity to shift narratives, build capacity, and shape systems that uphold the dignity and potential of every older person — no matter where they live," says Carmel.

Carmel's appointment reflects CommonAge's core mission: to amplify local voices, support grassroots leadership, and help shape a more inclusive and equitable future for older people across the Commonwealth.

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## IFA's 17<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Ageing 9 – 12 September 2025, Cape Town, South Africa

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The 17th Global Conference on Ageing, organised by the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), is scheduled for September 10–12, 2025, in Cape Town, South Africa. This conference aims to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders—including advocates, researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, healthcare professionals, caregivers, and individuals passionate about ageing issues—to explore and address the multifaceted aspects of ageing in society.

- **Keynote Addresses:** Insights from internationally renowned speakers.
- **Symposiums:** Discussions on current research and best practices.
- **Workshops:** Skill-building sessions for professionals and caregivers.
- **Oral and Poster Sessions:** Opportunities to present and engage with research findings.
- **Voices of Older People:** Platform for older adults to share experiences and perspectives.

The conference will delve into various themes, including Age-friendly Environments, Family and Intergenerational Dynamics, Immunization for All Ages, Capacity Building in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, Healthy Ageing, Digital Technologies in Practice, Economic Aspects of Ageing, Human Rights, Long-term Care, and Brain Health across the Lifespan.

IFA and CommonAge have both collaborated towards a Bursary programme. Accordingly, 10 bursaries recipients have been identified from 8 African countries. During the course of the conference, CommonAge would launch 3 more CommonAge Chapters in Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia.

[Register Here](#)

# CommonAge Country Chapters Updates



## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025 | CommonAge Kenya Chapter

Kibagare Slum, Nairobi | 14 June 2025

In early observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, marked globally on 15 June, the CommonAge Kenya Chapter partnered with Charis Eagle Springs to host a meaningful community event in Kibagare Slum, Nairobi.

Led by Margaret Njagi, Director of Charis Eagle Springs, the event brought together older persons to celebrate their voices, share experiences, and advocate for dignity and protection in later life. We were honoured to have Ms. Nancy Wagacha join us as Chief Guest, and proud to have our Chapter Chairman, Mr. Richard Waindi, reaffirm CommonAge Kenya's continued commitment to elder rights.

Event Highlights:

- Joyful music and traditional dance
- Open spaces for older persons to speak and be heard
- Empowerment sessions by Train the Trainer on elder care and rights
- Inspiring messages from Ms. Njagi, Mr. Waindi, Ms. Wagacha, and Anthony Tony
- A shared meal and essential food hampers for all older attendees

Together, we continue to amplify the voices of older persons and stand united against elder abuse — working toward a more inclusive and age-just Kenya.



## AgeWatch Africa Foundation Hosts Moi University to Cement Partnership.

On Thursday, June 26, AgeWatch Africa had the pleasure of hosting over 230 students and lecturers from Moi University's Department of Psychology and Gerontology.

This meaningful engagement marks a key step in our ongoing partnership discussions with Moi University, aimed at strengthening the link between academic research and real-world impact in the field of ageing.

Together, we are working to advance:

- Research translation into community practice
- Policy advocacy and strategic thought leadership
- Collaborative resource mobilisation
- Co-design and delivery of joint trainings, workshops, and webinars
- Knowledge exchange and capacity building
- Technical program support through research and evidence generation

We are thrilled to continue building bridges between academic insight and community action — shaping a more age-inclusive future for Kenya.

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## CommonAge Membership Badge



We have developed this exclusive badge for members to support their credibility and commitment on working towards an all age-inclusive Commonwealth, as well as being part of a Commonwealth affiliated organisation that is committed to ensuring older people are fully recognised in society, and are supported and enabled to live well.

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## Accreditation



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## Core Patrons



## Our Patrons



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## Our Partners



## Our Brand Graphics consultant (pro bono)

brand  
partners

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# Join us!

We are a charity and our voluntary Board of Directors is committed to making changes to older people's lives across the Commonwealth.

Help us deliver the ideal of an "All Age Friendly" Commonwealth that values the dignity of older people, respects their wisdom and experience, and that leaves no one behind in the journey towards a sustainable, peaceful future.

[Donate](#), [partner](#), **become a** [member!](#)

You can donate to us via

- Credit card: Visa, Mastercard and American Express
- Apple Pay
- Google Pay
- PayPal

Get in Touch! We'd love to share your stories and help us to grow the conversations about our mission and vision, and to celebrate the great achievements of organisations and older people themselves.

Thank you for your continued support.

Team CommonAge

Visit our website [www.commonage.net](http://www.commonage.net) for more information about our work and for regular updates.

Email Ms Reneta Dsouza, Executive Assistant at [secretariat@commage.org](mailto:secretariat@commage.org) or connect with us on social media.



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

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