

# Ageing Australia National Conference 2025



30 September – 2 October 2025  
Gold Coast, Queensland

# Ageing Australia National Conference 2025



The day opened with reflections from the Ageing Australia **CEO, Tom Symondson**, who highlighted a year of significant achievements. This was followed by the **Hon. Tracey Martin, Chief Executive of the Aged Care Association** New Zealand, who shared valuable insights while cautioning the sector about the risks of reform fatigue and compliance overload.

Service providers demonstrated how the narrative could be shifted from challenges to opportunities, while a wide range of exhibitors presented cutting-edge technologies and innovative products. The event continued to build momentum as Australia's leading aged care forum, driving bold ideas and sector-shaping conversations that reimaged the future of aged care.

The details to the event can be found here

[National Conference 2025 – day one](#)

[National Conference 2025 – day two](#)

[National Conference 2025 – day three](#)



# About The Conference

Ageing Australia welcomed 2,342 attendees to the National Conference 2025. Chair Mick Reid AM opened the event following a Welcome to Country by the Tribal Custodians. He highlighted the Board's role in representing Australia's diverse aged care providers and stressed the need for dignity, respect, and collaboration across government, providers, and communities to drive meaningful reform.

The conference featured Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae and Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Anne Ruston, along with insights from demographer Mark McCrindle. Journalist and MC Virginia Trioli led a dynamic discussion with sector leaders, setting an energetic and inspiring tone for Australia's premier aged care event.



## Mansur Dalal

Chairman, CommonAge

Founder & Chair Emeritus ASLI

We were delighted that our Chair, **Mansur Dalal**, represented CommonAge in three significant sessions at the conference:

◆ **International Panel** – explored how countries are reimagining care, community, and support for older persons. Mansur contributed a perspective of ageing in India 🇮🇳 to this global dialogue.



L-R: Joseph Musgrave, CEO, Home and Community Care Ireland; Janice Chia, Founder and Managing Director, Ageing Asia; Michelle Palmer, Executive Director, Retirement Villages Association of NZ; the Hon Tracey Martin, Chief Executive, Aged Care Association New Zealand; Mansur Dalal, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Association of Senior Living India; Tom Symondson, CEO, Ageing Australia

The international panel, hosted by Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson, invited us to learn from one another. We heard of the silver economy and growth of community hubs in Singapore, underinvestment in New Zealand, India's need for 2.3 million additional seniors units, and reforms pivoting toward care at home in Ireland.

◆ **Migration: The Silver Bullet or a Stopgap?** – as aged care faces workforce shortages, migration is often seen as a solution. But is it a sustainable long-term strategy, or only a temporary fix? Mansur unpacked the role of migration in addressing workforce changes and practical considerations.



◆ **India-focused Session** – shining a spotlight on ageing in India, Mansur shared how cultural traditions, demographic shifts, and innovation are shaping the future of care and support for older persons.



"The conference has been about seizing the moment and looking to the future with purpose. It has been an amazing experience - full of learning, reconnecting with friends, and meeting new ones. I was reminded of an old analogy: like travellers gathering at a waterhole, we converge here to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and strengthen our journey together."

**Mansur Dalal, Founder and Chairman Emeritus  
Association of Senior Living India**



**Linda Justin & Darren Birbeck**  
Directors - CommonAge

Along with the Chair Mansur Dalal, we were pleased to have Darren Birbeck and Linda Justin representing CommonAge at the Ageing Australia Conference. Their presence added significant depth to the dialogue on the future of aged care, drawing on their extensive experience across care delivery, leadership, and innovation within the sector.

Both Darren and Linda contributed valuable insights to discussions on ageing, workforce sustainability, and system reform — reinforcing CommonAge's commitment to promoting excellence and collaboration across Commonwealth nations. Their participation ensured that the voices of providers, clinicians, and advocates from our network were meaningfully reflected in this important gathering, strengthening our collective vision for quality, compassionate, and future-ready care for older people.

# CommonAge Representation



Commonwealth Ageing with Creativity and Technology (CW ACT) is an independent Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in the UK, that has been created, with support, by CommonAge and was launched on 1st October 2025 at Australia.

CW ACT is working with international partners to develop two streams of financial support targeted mainly, but not exclusively, at releasing the creative commercial potential of enterprises in lower- and middle- income countries (LMICs) and small island states (SIDs) of the Commonwealth.