



Dear CommonAge Members and Friends,

As 2025 unfolds, we are proud to share a vibrant quarter of achievements, collaborations, and global impact from across the Commonwealth. This edition of our newsletter highlights the many ways CommonAge is amplifying the voices of older people, fostering innovation, and strengthening partnerships to advance healthy, dignified ageing worldwide.

From the inspiring participation of our 2025 bursary recipients at the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Conference in Cape Town, to the launch of three new Chapters in Namibia, Mozambique, and Zambia, this quarter has demonstrated the power of leadership, advocacy, and collaboration across borders. We also celebrate the formal partnership between CommonAge and HelpAge International, designed to enhance our collective impact on older persons throughout the Commonwealth.

Innovation and creativity remain at the forefront of our mission, exemplified by the launch of Commonwealth Ageing with Creativity and Technology (CW ACT), which will generate investment and support solutions to improve the quality of life for citizens of all ages. At the same time, major sector events such as the Ageing Australia National Conference brought together thousands of leaders, experts, and innovators to share insights, discuss reform, and explore technologies and approaches that are shaping the future of aged care.

This quarter also featured dynamic Chapter-level engagement, from community partnerships in Kenya with Moi University to inspiring programs across Africa and Asia that strengthen care, promote dignity, and celebrate older persons. Each story reflects the impact of our members, partners, and communities as we work together to create an age-inclusive world.

We invite you to read on, celebrate these milestones with us, and continue supporting initiatives that champion the rights, wellbeing, and voices of older people globally.

International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Conference 9th September - 12th September 2025



This September 2025, CommonAge, in partnership with the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), proudly supported the participation of 10 outstanding bursary recipients from across Africa and Asia at the 16th Global Conference on Ageing in Cape Town, South Africa. These emerging leaders in ageing, health, and social development brought fresh perspectives, lived experiences, and innovative ideas to the global stage, contributing to the conference theme, "Rights Matter: Advancing Equality for Older People."

CommonAge Chapter Launch



Namibia
Prof. Janet (Janetta) Ananias



Mozambique
Prof. Miguel Marrengula



Zambia
Anderson Simfukwe

[Mission Cape Town Report](#)

CommonAge launched three new Chapters in **Zambia, Mozambique, and Namibia**, expanding its presence across the Commonwealth and strengthening its mission to amplify the voices of older people globally. Each Chapter brought together changemakers passionate about ageing and intergenerational collaboration, advocated for the rights and inclusion of older people in their communities, and fostered cross-country partnerships that drove meaningful change.

Memorandum Of Understanding CommonAge & HelpAge International



HelpAge International and the Commonwealth Association for the Ageing – CommonAge – were pleased to announce a formal strategic partnership, this Sept at Cape Town, by signing an MOU which will enable the two organisations to integrate their work for older people across the Commonwealth.

Launch of the CW ACT - Commonwealth Ageing with Creativity and Technology



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 in Australia.

It operates as a commercial company designed to create and support investment and growth opportunities for businesses and social enterprises across the Commonwealth. working on commercial solutions that will improve the quality of life for citizens of all ages across the life course and especially those facing the challenges of age-related infirmity. A significant percentage of any profit generated by CW ACT will be donated to CommonAge to sustain the day-to-day operations of the charity.

[Read More](#)

Ageing Australia National Conference 30th September - 2nd October 2025

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. 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 reimagined the future of aged care.

[Read More](#)

[Ageing Australia National Conference Report](#)

CommonAge Annual General Meeting 8th September 2025



The CommonAge Annual General Meeting was held on 8 September 2025 in Cape Town, this year.

The gathering brought together members from across the Commonwealth to reflect on the year's milestones, review key achievements, and strengthen a collective vision for ageing. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences, reaffirm CommonAge's mission of amplifying the voices of older people, and set a strategic direction for the year ahead.

Important approvals were taken for and the members were apprised of the new developments in the Board. The board also took on record, the excellent contribution, of Jacqueline Wong, as she voluntary steps down from the board of CommonAge at the end of 2025 and the excellent contribution of Mr. John Collyns as director on board from Jan 2023 to Dec 2025, as he now retires on completion of his term.



CommonAge Bursary Recipients 2025



These future leaders will bring powerful voices, fresh perspectives, and innovative ideas to the global conversation on ageing. Together with CommonAge and the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), we're proud to support them in shaping the future of ageing worldwide

Meet our incredible bursary recipients:

Miguel Marrengula – Mozambique
Anderson Simfukwe – Zambia
Richard Waindi – Kenya
Carmel Murugen – South Africa
Lizette Kuhn – South Africa
Dr Sriromi Maduwage – Sri Lanka
Margaret Njagi – Kenya
Diana Eтуhole Iyambo – Namibia
Kandina Mukapuli – Namibia

[Read about our Recipients Here](#)

CommonAge Country Chapters Updates



Richard Waindi from Kenya shared highlights from the East Africa Legends Football Tournament 2025, an unforgettable two-day event celebrating football, culture, and healthy ageing. Fans enjoyed legendary matches featuring stars from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, spectacular goals, and dazzling skills that showcased why these players are true icons. The tournament also featured vibrant opening and closing ceremonies celebrating music, culture, and intergenerational unity, while promoting awareness around healthy ageing and the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP). Richard emphasized that this event is just the beginning, with plans to expand next year to include more countries across Eastern Africa, continuing to unite generations and nations through sport.

Margaret Njagi from Kenya shared a heart-warming visit to older persons in Kamuyu, Nyeri County, Kenya, as part of preparations for the upcoming International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) on October 1st. Centered around this year's theme, *"Strengthening Care and Support Systems that Honor the Dignity of Older Persons,"* her visit focused on wellbeing, safety, mental health, and economic empowerment. Margaret spent quality time with the community, enjoying laughter, learning about their businesses, and experiencing their surroundings. Each person received a gift of flour, and they shared a cup of tea together, fostering connection and warmth. She looks forward to celebrating IDOP with meaningful activities that honor the dignity of older persons.

Rianna Patterson shared a joyful celebration for International Day of Older Persons, joining her colleagues at the Alzheimer's Association of Puerto Rico for their lively *"Goofy Games"* activity. The event brought laughter, connection, and fun to participants, highlighting the importance of engagement, social interaction, and meaningful activities in promoting the wellbeing of older persons. Rianna's participation reflects the spirit of IDOP, celebrating dignity, inclusion, and joy for older adults.

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.

Accreditation



Core Patrons



Our Patrons



Our Partners



Our Brand Graphics consultant (pro bono)



Our Board

[Read More](#)

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 you continued support.

Team CommonAge

Visit our website www.commonage.net for more information about our work and for regular updates.

Email Reneta Dsouza, Executive Assistant at secretariat@commage.org or connect with us on social media.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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