

Commonwealth Association for the Ageing

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ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

PERIOD: JULY 1 2024– JUNE, 2025

As we reflect on 2024 and 2025 so far, we are immensely proud of CommonAge's remarkable achievements in advancing the cause of healthy ageing across the Commonwealth. Our launch of four vibrant Country Chapters in India, Kenya, South Africa, and Botswana has strengthened our grassroots presence, while our comprehensive report on 'Dementia in the Commonwealth' continues to shape policy discussions. The successful 'Train the Trainer' programme in Durban and our impactful participation in CHOGM 2024 in Samoa have further extended our reach and so has our involvement in the development of the 'Roadmap for Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course: 2024-2030,' which will guide our efforts in the years ahead. Our crowning achievement has been the appointment of the special envoy on healthy ageing, a result of our years of lobbying with the CWF. The India Mission and our participation in the 5th ASLI Ageing fest and partnership with Dementia India Alliance to further the cause of dementia across the CW and our knowledge partnerships with CEDAC and the Kochi Municipal Corporation to create an age-friendly city demonstrate our commitment to practical, on-the ground solutions.

As we entered 2025, we saw a 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.

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.

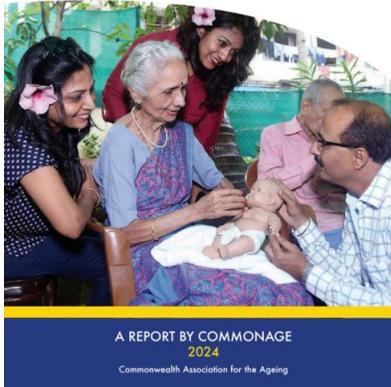
EVENTS -2024

1. Launch of the Dementia in the Commonwealth Report

This pivotal report was launched at the following events:

- **6 September** – Sydney Conference
- **September** – Malta
- **22 October** – CHOGM, Samoa (People's Forum Side Event)
- **29 November** – DEMCON, Bangalore
- **6 December** – ASLI Fest, Bangalore.

Dementia In The Commonwealth



Believed to be the first report on dementia focussing on Commonwealth countries, this pivotal publication, delves into the current state of dementia care and support; it highlights disparities and challenges, best practices, and the urgent need for action to improve the lives of those affected by dementia. This report is essential reading for anyone involved in health policy, health, care and community development, service delivery and everyone who wants to find out what they can do for themselves, each other and their community

Report: [Dementia Report - CommonAge](#)

2. DEMCON 2024: “Reaching the Unreached in Dementia” - Bangalore | November 29–30, 2024

A major international conference co-hosted with Dementia India Alliance.

CommonAge speakers:

- Andrew Larpent: “Dementia in the Commonwealth”
- Mansur Dalal: “Technology/AI and Reminiscence Therapy”
- Femada Shamam: “A Pan-African Approach to Dementia Care”

CommonAge has signed a Letter of Intent with Dementia India Alliance to advance the cause of dementia and address its challenges head-on. This collaboration aligns seamlessly with CommonAge’s focus on healthy ageing, creating a powerful synergy to drive progress. By triangulating our core priorities—healthy ageing, dementia advocacy, and establishing standards—we aim to make a tangible impact across the Commonwealth, promoting better outcomes for elders in every region.”





3. ASLI Ageing Fest (5th Edition) - Bangalore | December 6, 2024
 Theme: “Is the Senior Care Sector Ready for Take-off?”

CommonAge speakers:

- Andrew Larpent: “Ageing in the Commonwealth”
 - Femada Shamam: “Intergenerational Dynamics and Economic Challenges – The Case of TAFTA & Innovate Durban”
- Mansur Dalal participated in a Roundtable Discussion on Building Capacity to Serve: The Human Capital Challenge



4. Launch of “Age Friendly City – Kochi” - Kochi | December 2, 2024

Inauguration by the Mayor of Kochi, alongside CommonAge India Chapter and Board Members.

A manifesto was signed between CommonAge, CEDAC and the Kochi Municipal Corporation as an important step toward ensuring that Kochi becomes a truly age-friendly city. By working together, a model will be created to inspire other cities to embrace the principles of inclusivity, respect, and support for older persons. We look forward to our continued collaboration and are excited to help Kochi achieve its full potential as a leader in age friendly development. By aligning with the WHO’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities, we reaffirm our commitment to assist by knowledge sharing to enhance Kochi’s policies, infrastructure, and services, ensuring they adapt to demographic changes and improve the lives of its senior residents.

Report: [India Mission - CommonAge](#)



5. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting - SAMOA Oct 2024

Our delegates Linda Justin, Director; Jacqueline Wong, Vice Chair; Dame Carol Black (Secretary General's Special Envoy for Ageing Well); Carmel Murugen, Bursary Delegate, Douledel Tyndale, Bursary Delegate and myself attended The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 took place in Apia, Samoa from 21-26 October 2024.

At one of the events at the Commonwealth People's Forum, Linda Justin, Director led a high - level panel discussion on the "Dementia in the Commonwealth Report". Our CommonAge Team shared their perspectives on addressing Dementia across Commonwealth nations.

Report: [COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2024 - CommonAge](#)





6. Ageing Well in the Commonwealth - A Roadmap for Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course: 2024–2030

Dame Carol Black, the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Ageing Well, released a report titled **“Ageing Well in the Commonwealth - A Roadmap for Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course: 2024–2030.”** “This roadmap built on the great work of the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), and, in particular, CommonAge, which led the way as advocates for ensuring that older people in the Commonwealth were fully recognized in society and supported to live well in age-friendly communities.”

Report : [A Roadmap for Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course: 2024–2030 - CommonAge](#)

7. MENARAHA/IAGG Regional Symposium, Cairo (April 29–30, 2024)

A virtual presentation was delivered on behalf of CommonAge titled: “Cross-Culture Learning: Formulating Standards for the Senior Living and Care Industry of India.”

DOCUMENTS

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

The following MOUs were executed to foster collaboration and expand our network:

- **With AAG (Australian Association of Gerontology)**
Focus: Supporting the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing; emphasizing human rights, intergenerational cohesion, and dementia.
- **With INIA (International Institute on Ageing, UN - Malta)**
Focus: Capacity building through global training and research in ageing, especially dementia.
- **With MAGICS (Kochi, India)**
Focus: Promoting age-friendly communities and Healthy Ageing in India.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2024

A series of significant meetings were held with key stakeholders and board members during December 2024 these included:

1. Meeting with UKRI – 12th December 2024

A meeting was held with UKRI, where a potential partnership and funding support for a CommonAge healthy ageing challenge, similar to the UKRI challenge was discussed. UKRI was, in principle, supportive of the proposal.

Attendees included George MacGinnis (Challenge Director – Healthy Ageing), Cynthia Bullock (Deputy Challenge Director – Healthy Ageing), and Natalie Gray (Programme Manager).

A synopsis outlining eligible project types and the application process was shared.

2. Annual General Meeting – 17th December 2024

The AGM was successfully conducted with 18 participants from 7 countries in attendance. The minutes are available here: [AGM Minutes](#)

KEY VIDEOS

CommonAge In Action: Key Events Videos of 2024 CHOGM 2024

1. Linda Justin, Director led a high - level panel discussion on the CommonAge “Dementia in the Commonwealth Report” at the Commonwealth People’s Forum on Day
2. Each of our delegates gave their insights and perspective on Dementia.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMYeEpD2Vls>
3. Mansur Dalal, Chair speaking at the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisation (IFCO) that brings together the vast majority of the Commonwealth’s Accredited Organisation as the only body representing civil society organisation in the Commonwealth.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5RSt1F3_q8

Mansur Dalal, Chair at CPF asking question relating to Healthy Ageing & climate change
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMR42D4f_GM

Launch of the “Dementia in the Commonwealth” Report at IDC, Sydney Dr Emma Hodges (Development Director, Compassionate Communities UK) and Linda Justin, Director provided an insightful overview of the findings and shared the personal pledges they made at the event.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-3z9a0lpsY>

India Mission: Mansur Dalal, Chair speaking on “Technology / AI and Reminiscence Therapy” at DemCon 24, Dementia India Alliance, International Conference in Bengaluru.
Link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSSuw6OORQ4>

5TH ASLI Ageing Fest “Senior Care Sector: Ready for Take Off”, Dec 6th 2024

1. Watch the entire proceedings: <https://www.youtube.com/live/TooOmFHsEGc>
2. Andrew Larpent, Chair Emeritus, keynote speaker on “Ageing in the Commonwealth”, describing the challenges and opportunities of ageing in the Commonwealth.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgsPythue-U>
3. Mansur Dalal, Chair participated in a Roundtable Discussion on Building Capacity to Serve: The Human Capital Challenge.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMOP5rUQ9MM>
4. Mansur Dalal, Chair speaking on ELDER Care Mansur Dalal, Chair speaking on ELDER Care ‘Building Capacity to Serve: The Human Capital Challenge’
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY8OabxFj0o>
5. Femada Shamam, Vice Chair, participating in a Roundtable Discussion on Technology & Seniors: Is AgeTech for Real?
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRNko8jw0hw>

Coming of Age: Meeting the needs of our ageing population: In this podcast by the Ontario Long Term Care Association, host **Donna Duncan**, I was joined by another visionary leader to discuss how to tackle these workforce challenges on a global scale:

- **Mansur Dalal**, Chair of CommonAge and founder of the Association of Senior Living in India.
- **Robyn Stone**, Senior Vice President of Research at LeadingAge, Co-Director of the LeadingAge LTSS Centre in the U.S. at UMass Boston.

How can we tackle the global shortage of healthcare workers and ensure sustainable seniors' care as demand rises worldwide?

<https://link.cohostpodcasting.com/2bdb668f-7cd8-440f-8519-08e44aa9076f?d=ejDfYxKC6>

MAKING CONNECTIONS

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

On 29th of October I shared a cherished moment at Adelaide, Australia sharing a formal breakfast with Linda Justin, Director; Antony Pivato, Honorary Treasurer; Greg Adey, David Martin, Nick Stevens, Frank Weits, Derek Dittrich, Michael Elias, Sarah Brown, Tammy Sherwood, Klaus Zimmermann and Jo Boylan followed by Dinner in Adelaide with the CommonAge family Richard, Linda Justin, Director, Klaus Zimmermann,(former CEO of CommonAge), Antony Pivato, Honorary Treasurer, Jill Seeman and David Stevens, founder of SWI

Also Visited Southern Cross Care, with Antony and Klaus. Southern cross Adelaide is a respected provider of aged care services in South Australia, offering a wide range of residential care options, home care, and retirement living services with a commitment to delivering person-centred care.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

“It was a pleasure to meet with John, former Executive Director, Retirement Villages Association (NZ) Inc, to discuss our shared vision for aging communities in the region.” It was wonderful celebrating Diwali and promoting CommonAge at Arvida Home, the largest senior living community operator in New Zealand.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Courtesy Linda and along with her, met with Marlene Krasovitsky, the lead from WHO on Ageing Well and Age-Friendly Cities. Marlene Krasovitsky is a recognised leader in global health, particularly in the field of ageing and geriatric care.

Visited HAMMOND CARE and met with their Dementia report Design and Publication team of along with their CEO Andrew Thorburn. HammondCare Sydney is a leading provider of aged care and healthcare services, with a strong emphasis on compassionate, person-centered care.

Courtesy Linda, met with the Team from the UTS Ageing Research Collaborative (UARC) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

The UTS Ageing Research Collaborative UARC takes a multidisciplinary approach to the complex issues associated with ageing and aged care. It is co-led by Professors Brown and Parker

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Visited LDK communities and met with Paul Browne, owner of LDK communities, Canberra, Australia. Paul Browne is the owner and driving force behind LDK Communities, a leading provider of luxury retirement living in Canberra, Australia.

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Visited the Memory care facility of New Direction, and met with Natasha Chadwick, Founder and CEO, NewDirection Care; Gwenda Darling, Council of Elders, (Dept. of Health and Aged Care, Australian Govt.) and Justin Chadwick, Director, New Direction Care.

Natasha Chadwick is on a mission to Positively disrupt the way aged care services are provided in Australia, an industry that has operated in the same way for decades.

Visited Bally Cara Ltd and met with Sharon Blackburn CBE, one of the Founders of CommonAge and presently Executive Director, Bally Cara Ltd. Sharon has a depth of experience spanning 40 years in Health and Social Care much of which has been spent in the Independent Aged Care Sector.

PERIOD: JANUARY 1 – JUNE, 2025

1. Launch of the New Website

The new website, www.commonage.net, was successfully launched under a new domain name and is now live. We are endeavouring to country wise, search and find features for services/ products across the commonwealth to increase footfalls to the web site.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

A series of significant meetings were held with key stakeholders and board members which included

1. Meeting with WHO – 14th January 2025

CommonAge was a partner in the launch of the first Age friendly city in India, Kochi, which was launched on 4th December 2025, at the hands of the Kochi Mayor and other dignitaries at the KochTown hall. A meeting with Thiago Henrick De Sá (Director, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing Unit) and Dr. Marlane Krasovitsky (Consultant, Global Campaign to Combat Ageism) was held on 14 January 2025 to apprise them on the same.

2. Meeting with IFA – 22nd January 2025

A collaborative meeting was held in preparation for the IFA Conference in Cape Town (scheduled for 9–12 September 2025).

Attendees included IFA President Graeme Prior, Programme Director Jaco Hoffman, and Secretary General Gregor Sneddon. It was proposed that IFA and CommonAge would jointly sponsor 10 bursaries for delegates from Africa to the IFA conference.

3. Meeting with DIA – 28th January 2025

A meeting was held with the Dementia India Alliance (DIA) to explore policy advocacy strategies for dementia across India and the Commonwealth.

Participants included Executive Director Ramani Sundaram, Secretary Shyam Viswanathan, Joint Secretary Pavithra Gangadharan, and Dr. Gangadharan K. R. it was also decided to submit a joint abstract for a plenary session at the IFA conference.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVES

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Home Management and Care Givers Sector Skill Council (HMCSSC), India

This is the first official MoU between CommonAge and the government of a Commonwealth country — INDIA and marks a powerful step toward our shared goal of building capacity and dignity in elder care across the Commonwealth. This collaboration underscores our commitment to an **all-age-friendly Commonwealth**, rooted in dignity, care, and intergenerational solidarity.

2. Nominations for Board Induction

The Following 3 highly accomplished individuals were invited to join the board of CommonAge.

1. Ann Veronica Keeling – United Kingdom
2. Anthony L. Kupferschmidt – Canada
3. Darren Birbeck – Australia

This selection was done after due process of evaluation, interviews with the active involvement of the board and the appointed nominating committee. There were 17 applications received from across the commonwealth. They have joined the board effective 1st June 2025.

To know more please visit - <https://commonage.net/our-board/>

3. CommonAge Living Well – Ageing Well Investment Challenge.



Following support from UKRI, CommonAge was honoured to host the CommonAge “Living Well – Ageing Well” Innovation Challenge Expert Roundtable on 13 June 2025 at Marlborough House in London.

This collaborative event, organized by CommonAge in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, Innovate UK, the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC), 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, 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.

Read more here - <https://commonage.net/commonage-living-well-ageing-well-round-table-13-june-2025/>

MANSUR DALAL
CHAIRMAN

The Commonwealth Association of the Ageing.