

CommonAge April Newsletter, 2026

Welcome to Our April Newsletter!

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2026, it is clear that momentum continues to build across the Commonwealth in advancing the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of older people. This quarter has been marked by significant collaboration, strategic leadership appointments, international advocacy, and recognition of the outstanding individuals driving change across our network.

From Canada's powerful "**Ageing on Parliament Hill**" **advocacy day**—bringing together national organisations and policymakers to elevate ageing as a national priority—to rich **cross-continental dialogue during a webinar on Ageing in Sub-Saharan Africa**, CommonAge members continue to shape important conversations and solutions at both grassroots and policy levels.

We are delighted to welcome **Nadra Ahmed CBE DL (UK)** and **Darren Birbeck (Australia)** as our **newly appointed Vice Chairs**. Their appointments strengthen CommonAge's leadership capacity and reinforce our commitment to strategic advocacy, global collaboration, and sector advancement across member nations.

We also proudly congratulate **Director Ann Keeling on her appointment to the Steering Committee of the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO)**, further amplifying the voice of older persons within influential Commonwealth forums.

A special highlight this quarter—and one we celebrate with immense pride—is the international recognition of our Immediate Past Chair, **Mansur Dalal**, who was honoured last night in Singapore with the - **Global Ageing Influencer Award by Ageing Asia** in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to ageing and elder care across India and the global Commonwealth community. This prestigious recognition reflects the calibre of leadership within CommonAge and the impact our network continues to make worldwide.

As this newsletter demonstrates, CommonAge is not simply growing—we are moving with purpose. Through shared leadership, bold advocacy, and international partnership, we continue to build an all-age-inclusive Commonwealth where older people are valued, supported, and empowered.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Team CommonAge

Canada Takes Ageing to Parliament Hill



On February 4, 2026, a coalition of 18 federal and provincial organizations gathered in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada, for an “Ageing on Parliament Hill” advocacy day. Representatives of these organizations from across the country met with federal Parliamentarians and joined a roundtable reception with the Secretary of State for Seniors, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretaries of State for Labour, for Seniors, Children & Youth, and the Minister of Jobs and Families

Public policy dialogue focused on three primary areas:

- Strengthening community-based seniors services and recognizing the critical role of more than 10,000 organizations across the country that engage and support older adults.
- Improving Bill C-16 to better protect older adults by ensuring legal protections against coercive control extend beyond the actions of intimate partners to also include abuse by adult children, relatives and caregivers.
- Advancing retirement income policy by urging the federal government to have the Chief Actuary evaluate the feasibility of delaying retirement benefits through the Canada Pension Plan to improve financial security in later life.

This event had engagement from all major federal political parties, and included a call for an all-party caucus on ageing. Ageing is emerging as a stronger unifying national priority, and organizations from across Canada will work to maintain this momentum as the population ages.

Anthony Kupferschmidt, MA

Driving Our Vision Forward: Introducing Our Vice Chair's



NADRA AHMED
CBE DL



DARREN BIRBECK

We are pleased to announce the appointment of, [Nadra Ahmed](#) (UK) and [Darren Birbeck](#) (Australia) as Vice Chairs of CommonAge.

As a Commonwealth network supporting organisations that serve ageing populations across multiple countries, CommonAge continues to strengthen its leadership to respond to increasing system pressures — including workforce sustainability, funding reform, regulatory complexity, and rising demand for quality care.

[Nadra Ahmed](#), Executive Co-Chairman of the National Care Association (UK), is widely recognised for her national leadership in adult social care policy and provider advocacy. Her influence in funding reform and government engagement will further elevate CommonAge’s strategic policy voice across member nations.

[Darren Birbeck](#), CEO of Resthaven Incorporated (Australia), brings extensive executive experience in governance, service innovation, and quality improvement across residential and community aged care services. His operational leadership strengthens our ability to facilitate cross-country knowledge exchange and systems development.

Celebrating Mansur Dalal's Prestigious Global Recognition



CommonAge is delighted to congratulate our Immediate Past Chair, Mansur Dalal, on receiving the Ageing Asia Global Ageing Influencer Award at the 14th Eldercare Innovation Awards 2026, held in Singapore on 14th April 2026.

Presented in recognition of his exceptional leadership and contribution to the global ageing sector, Mansur received the award in his capacity as Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Association of Senior Living India (ASLI).

The award recognises Mansur as one of the world's foremost thought leaders driving innovation and shaping the future of ageing.

Further highlighting his leadership in the field, Mansur also served as part of the jury for various awards and was also presenter of the awards at the event, sharing his expertise and insights with delegates and industry leaders from across the global eldercare sector.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mansur on this exceptional and well-deserved international recognition.

Ann Keeling Appointed to IFCO Steering Committee



CommonAge is proud to announce that Director **Ann Keeling** has been appointed to the Steering Committee of the **Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO)**.

This appointment reflects Ann's respected leadership, her deep knowledge of the Commonwealth and the **Commonwealth Secretariat**, and her significant contribution to advancing the rights and wellbeing of older persons.

In her new role, Ann will help guide strategic discussions and contribute to shaping the future direction of collaboration among Commonwealth organisations. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ann on this outstanding achievement and look forward to the valuable impact she will make in this important position.

Podcast Conversations and Perspectives with Mansur Dalal

As global conversations on ageing continue to evolve, platforms such as podcasts and expert dialogues play a vital role in sharing knowledge, experiences, and innovation across borders. Two recent features highlight the importance of storytelling and global collaboration in shaping the future of ageing and social care.



Ageing Matters Podcast by Ageing Australia

The Ageing Matters podcast by Ageing Australia brings together thought leaders, practitioners, and policymakers to explore key issues shaping the ageing sector today. Through engaging conversations, the series delves into topics such as aged care reform, workforce challenges, innovation, and the lived experiences of older people.

 Listen to the podcast: <https://commonage.net/ageing-matters-podcast-from-ageing-australia/>

Amplifying Global Voices in Social Care: A Conversation with Mansur Dalal

In a featured episode, Mansur Dalal, Immediate Past Chair of CommonAge, shares valuable insights on ageing in India and the broader global landscape. The conversation highlights the scale and urgency of demographic change, as well as the opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

Mansur speaks about the growing demand for senior living and care infrastructure, the need for skilled workforce development, and the role of technology in enhancing care delivery. Importantly, he underscores the importance of global partnerships in building sustainable and inclusive systems of care.

 Watch the conversation: <https://commonage.net/amplifying-global-voices-in-social-care-a-conversation-with-mansur-dalal/>

CommonAge Webinar - Explore the Diversity of Ageing experience across Sub-Saharan Africa



An inspiring global conversation on ageing in Africa was held on 27th January 2026.

The CommonAge webinar on the diversity of ageing experiences across Sub-Saharan Africa had participants representing 27 countries, the session offered rich perspectives on both the challenges and the advancements shaping ageing across the continent.

We heard powerful insights from country chapters across Africa, highlighting:

Shared and context-specific challenges

Innovative approaches and progress on the ground

The value of collaboration, learning, and collective action

These discussions reinforced the importance of building connected, inclusive pathways to support ageing with dignity across Africa.

[The Webinar can be viewed here](#)

Conversations in Common

Help Shape

At CommonAges, we believe the **most meaningful conversations** begin with our **community**.

'Conversations in Common' is our in-depth discussion series featuring expert insights on curated topics relevant to individuals and organisations across the aged care sector.

What topics would you like us to cover?

- ✓ Topics you'd like to see explored
- ✓ Emerging issues in aged care
- ✓ Expert voices you'd like to hear from
- ✓ Questions or challenges facing your organisation or practice

Send your suggestions to:

✉ secretariat@commage.org



CommonAge

CommonAge Updates

CommonAge is proud to stand alongside leaders driving change for the ageing equality.



Chair of Age International & Our Board Director, Ann Keeling, represented the voices of older women and shared vital insights at #PMAC2026 — highlighting the often-unseen contributions of older women and the urgent need for equitable support systems.

At CommonAge, we know that ensuring dignity, inclusion and social protection for older people is key to building healthier, fairer societies across the Commonwealth and beyond. Equity in ageing wasn't just good policy — it is a human right.

Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC) Annual Conference.



CommonAge is proud to share that our director, [Anthony Kupferschmidt](#), attended and participated in the highly successful Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC) Annual Conference. This year's conference brought together policymakers, advocates, researchers, and sector leaders to discuss the future of ageing, seniors' wellbeing, community support systems, and the creation of age-inclusive environments. It served as an important platform for knowledge-sharing and strengthening collaboration across sectors working with and for older adults.

Anthony contributed meaningfully to the event, moderating a panel on seniors' centres and age-inclusive communities — exploring how these spaces can serve as hubs for social connection, belonging, and lifelong participation.

The conference also marked COSCO BC's 75th anniversary, commemorated through the release of a special 75th Anniversary Report.

Read the 75th Anniversary Report: https://lnkd.in/gYnB_kDQ

Emma Barter Victoria Home (EBVH) - the 2025 Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Chamber of Business "Social Enterprise of the Year" Award



Under Wanda's leadership, EBVH offered a comprehensive range of affordable care services — independent living, assisted living, frail care, step-down support, and 24/7 onsite nursing delivered by trained carers.

A recently installed solar system ensured uninterrupted service, supporting the home's commitment to sustainability and operational resilience. We extended our warmest congratulations to Wanda and her team on winning the 2025 Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Chamber of Business "Social Enterprise of the Year" Award, which recognised EBVH's excellence in governance, ethical service, and long-standing community impact.

CommonAge Membership



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.

[Member's Page](#)

Accreditation



The Commonwealth

Core Patrons



STANDARDS WISE INTERNATIONAL
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Delivered by
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Our Patrons



Community Business Bureau



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International Federation on Ageing



Association of Senior Living in India



International Institute on Ageing
United Nations - Malta



Unit of the Independent Care Sector



a contribution to the
Decade of healthy ageing





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 your 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.

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